



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Neighborhood Won't Be the Same Without Harry Aleo

Local Icon Known for His Patriotic Window Display

By Steve Steinberg

Noe Valley said farewell last month to Harry Aleo, one of the neighborhood's most talked about and colorful individuals. The longtime owner of Twin Peaks Properties passed away on June 21 from cancer. He was 88.

Aleo, who was a World War II veteran, a one-time aspiring major league baseball player, and the owner of thoroughbred racehorses, was best known in liberal Noe Valley as Mr. Conservative.

He festooned the windows of his 24th Street realty office with photos of Republican icons like Ronald Reagan, Dwight Eisenhower, and Richard Nixon. The pictures, along with such handwritten signs as "Welcome to Looney Valley, the home of the cell phone, latte-sipping, left-wing liberals," seemed designed to taunt the inhabitants of this Democratic stronghold.

"But what he really wanted was for people to think about things," said Carol Yenne, owner of the children's clothing store next door and a longtime acquaintance. "He felt many people weren't thoughtful enough about the important issues of the day, and he wanted to provoke them into reflecting more on what was going on, both locally and nationally." Of course, Yenne added, "he also wanted people to know where he was coming from."

Aleo's gallery of Republican presidents was not always graciously received by passersby.

"People would come into his office and scream at him about his window displays," recalled friend Bob Roddick, a Noe Valley attorney with a practice on

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Harry Aleo, a beloved Noe Valley character who was as famous for his window on 24th Street as he was for his winning racehorse, died on June 21. 2005 Photo by Beverly Thorp



Noe Valley residents Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon (right) exchange rings at their wedding at City Hall, the first legal same-sex marriage in June officiated by Mayor Gavin Newsom.

Photo by Morcio Jose Sanchez/AP

Noe Nuptials a Part Of 'Summer of Love' at City Hall

By Corrie M. Anders

"Love and Happiness" was the unmistakable theme in San Francisco last month as gays and lesbians from across California streamed to City Hall to take advantage of a state Supreme Court ruling that ended the ban on same-sex marriage.

In a special ceremony June 16, with Mayor Gavin Newsom officiating, longtime Duncan Street residents Del Martin, 87, and Phyllis Lyon, 83, were the first to marry and receive state sanction for their 55-year relationship.

On the following day, hundreds of couples spoke their vows as the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus serenaded them

from the steps and chamber music wafted through the rotunda of the gilded Beaux Arts building. There were couples in formal bridal gowns with trains, and others wearing tuxedos with red roses in their lapels. Still others arrived in business suits or jeans. Some couples brought their children. Others brought their parents.

Many had signed domestic partnerships or civil union documents in the past. But on this occasion they were getting a "real" marriage license—the same legal document that heterosexual couples receive—and that prize spelled the end to a long struggle for equality.

Among the brides and grooms who walked into City Hall on the clear blue-sky morning of June 17 were many Noe Valleyans. Some posed for pictures and shared their stories with the *Voice*, amid the rush of photographers from around the world. To read about their journeys to this victory for gay rights, see pp. 26–27.

Daughter's Painful Search for Lost Father

By Lorraine Sanders

Thirty-four-year-old Tamara Cocchiarella knew very little about her father, a man she had laid eyes on once, and then only briefly, since his disappearance from her life at age 2.

She knew snippets of information: His name was Stephen James Hebert. He had been jailed in Oregon for burglary and violating parole. His sister, her aunt, lived in a neighboring town in Cocchiarella's home state of New Hampshire. She knew the names of his parents. And she knew—despite years of distance, heartbreak, and dead-end attempts to learn more about the man who gave her life—that she still wanted to find him.

In June, Cocchiarella learned that she never would. At least not in the way she'd hoped. Prompted by a discussion with friends, Cocchiarella, who is an adminis-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Roots of 24th Street Tree Troubles

By Josh Brandt

Even in the halcyon enclave of Noe Valley, where the gentle whirl of latte machines blends seamlessly with the rhythmic machinations of baby strollers, there are crimes committed daily. These crimes, while not heinous enough to warrant a ticket or jail time, affect living organisms that provide a vital role in any neighborhood.

The perpetrators are vandals, litterbugs, automobiles, and, most egregiously, canines and aphids. The victims? Trees.

"People do weird things to trees—it's a side of humanity you don't like to see," says Debra Niemann, director of the Noe Valley Association, a community benefit district funded by the city of San Francisco and property owners in "Downtown Noe Valley."

One of the main missions of the NVA is to "clean and green" the 24th Street corridor, a task made more complicated by

Senior Center Lunch Line Grows Longer

Meal Program Strained by Higher Demand

By Corrie M. Anders

Since hearing about a financial squeeze at 30th Street Senior Center, the lunch-time regulars had been lining up on the sidewalk three to four hours before noon. The buzz was "come early" or risk that the center might run out of the low-cost meals it serves every day except Sunday.

The seniors in line on a Monday in mid-June were mostly women, mostly gray-haired, and mostly Latino. A few relied on walkers, and several used canes. At 9 a.m. sharp, they surged into the elevator or climbed the stairs to the third-floor reception desk to snag one of the meal tickets.

That day, the 205 seniors who queued up were lucky. They all got to sit down for a hot plate of beef bourguignon, mashed potatoes, vegetables, cole slaw, and cantaloupe—and California veggie burgers for those who didn't eat meat. The diners were accommodated on this occasion, thanks to Supervisor Bevan Dufty and Mayor Gavin Newsom, who after calls from their constituents found ways to dip into the city budget to keep the lunch program running smoothly.

But the fact is the center was forced to cut meals and turn away as many as 40 seniors a day for several weeks this spring, because of fears of a budget shortage at the end of the fiscal year. And anx-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

GOING FISHING

The *Noe Valley Voice* is on vacation for a month starting July 4th. We'll be dusting off our computers in mid-August and gathering news for the September issue, due out Sept. 3. If you've got a tip for us, e-mail editor@noevalleyvoice.com or drop a line to 1021 Sanchez St., S.F., CA 94114. Those with ad questions should call Steve at 415-239-1114. But first, see if you can arrange for a vacation, too.

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THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
www.noevalleyvoice.com

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A Photo of Cute. Aw, isn't this critter the sweetest thing? Even though he was last seen at The Famer's Market on 24th St., he was there as an adoptable pet, not a menu item.

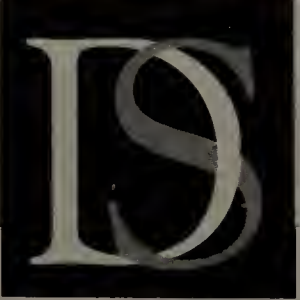
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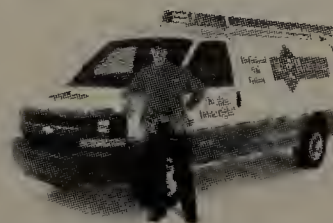
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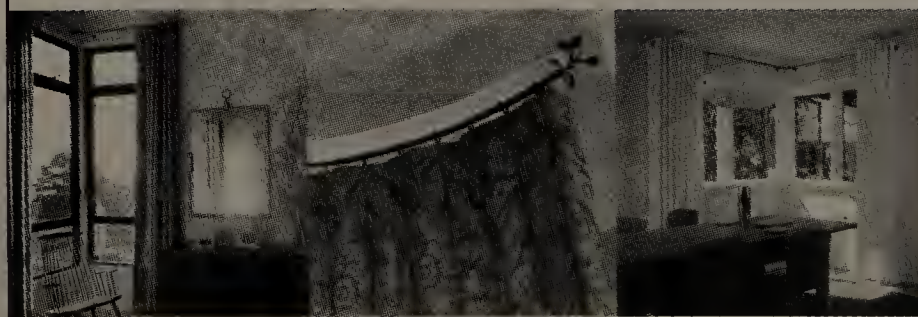
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LETTERS 42¢

Dogs Have a Shaggy History at Noe Courts

Editor:

My short answer to Michael Fasman's complaint in a letter in the June issue about the Park Department's enforcement of the dogs-on-leash regulation at Noe Courts is that it's about time the law was enforced. Furthermore, those "pet guardians" who refuse to leash their dogs when asked to do so are being obnoxious and self-righteous.

One time in the park several years ago, I actually complained to a dog owner because his dog was off leash. He informed me that he was a Vietnam veteran and that he should be allowed to run his dog in the

park. I called the SFPD. They told me to call the Animal Care and Control people. This was on a Saturday night. I called the Animal Control number and got a recording that said "Leave a message" and that they would call me back on Monday. After that discouraging experience, I never bothered to try again.

The long answer is more complicated.

My wife and I have lived on Elizabeth Street across from the park and uphill for 34 years. For the first 15 years or so, there was a sign posted saying no dogs allowed. For the most part, people complied with it. Somehow, in the 1990s, the regulation was changed. Why I am not sure. At one point the Park Department staff recommended that the prohibition on dogs be reinstated, but by that time the "dog community" had organized itself into an interest group, and the new status quo prevailed.

For the past few years, the "Dogs must be on leash" and "Owners should pick up after their pets" signs have been posted at the park. The former regulation has been ignored. I think the other requirement has been observed.

Over the years, I have heard a few complaints from my neighbors: One said that she could not use the park for sunbathing, even though she lives across from it, because it smells too bad. A couple of other neighbors have complained that the dogs make it unsafe for their children to use the park, or that they have had disagreements with dog owners when they brought their kids to the park.

Some of my neighbors have moved in more recently—some with small children, some with no children—and have acquired dogs since they moved into the neighborhood. They probably have assumed all along that bringing their dogs and letting them run off leash in the park (often with their children) was acceptable. I sympathize with them, and I'm glad they are using the neighborhood playground.

On the other hand, I resent people who drive to the neighborhood just to let their dog off leash in the park when it is posted that dogs are supposed to be leashed. There are several designated off-leash areas in nearby playgrounds—Eureka Valley, Douglass Park, and (soon) Upper Noe Recreation Center.

And I really resent the *I Have a Dog and I Vote* bumper stickers! We don't have a dog now and we vote. We used to have a dog many years ago and we voted then. SO WHAT?

Michael Cronbach
Elizabeth Street

OPEN LETTER

Got Conflict? Call Community Boards

City living is filled with frustrating circumstances that too frequently blossom into conflict: loud neighbors, decrepit fences, messy roommates, unpruned trees, parking on the sidewalk, barking dogs, building additions and construction. After 32 years of helping San Franciscans resolve disputes like these, there are very few conflicts Community Boards hasn't seen.

We've gained this knowledge through our Neighborhood Mediation Program, now the longest-running, no-cost mediation service in the United States. It is with this program that every San Francisco resident has access to free conflict resolution. For all those conflicts listed above plus many more, we have helped thousands of San Franciscans (and many Noe Valley residents) find peaceful, workable solutions.

People generally respond to conflict the same way they do to danger: flight or fight. Avoidance of the problem—ignoring it, laughing it off, cutting off communication—is flight. Such avoidance, however, frequently increases the frustration, because most problems don't solve themselves. Fighting can take different forms: gossiping with others, calling the police, contacting a city agency, or suing the other party. At its ugliest, there are literal fights, with yelling, profanities, insults, threats, slammed doors, and swung fists.

Community Boards remains dedicated to giving San Franciscans a viable third option through mediation: those with the conflict discuss the problem directly with each other and craft their own resolution. Meanwhile, our panels of trained volunteer mediators create safe and respectful opportunities for the parties' often heated discussions.

Our mediators don't judge or advocate. They help guide the disputants toward practical, shared solutions. Our mediations aim equally to repair or improve the relationships of those involved. Over 90 percent of our mediations reach agreement. Studies have shown again and again that mediated agreements are more effective than legal rulings.

Community Boards also provides low-cost mediation services with mediators who have special expertise in contract and business law, real estate, or divorce and family law. These mediations are ideal for disputes involving ongoing customer, professional, and residential relationships, such as business partnerships, long-term clients, and work/live and condominium associations.

In addition, we encourage people to become active members of their community by training as a volunteer mediator. We're always eager to increase our pool of diverse mediators. The 40-hour training is a mix of lectures, discussions, and role-plays, which have the added benefit of strengthening your personal and business communication, negotiating, and problem-solving skills.

We invite you to bring your conflicts to Community Boards. Call us at 415-920-3820. Our staff gives each party personalized attention and case development. We're also knowledgeable about services available for addressing problems not appropriate for mediation and can make referrals to other resources. You can also contact us for our "Ten Tips" on how to resolve your own disputes.

We look forward to hearing from you! In the meantime, check us out at www.communityboards.org.

Darlene Weide
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THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

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San Francisco, CA 94114
www.no valleyvoice.com

The *Noe Valley Voice* is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity, on or before the first Friday of the month. Subscriptions are available at \$30 per year (\$25 for seniors) by mailing to the above address.

The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The *Noe Valley Voice* is a member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association.

E-mail: editor@no valleyvoice.com
Editorial Office: 415-821-3324

Website: www.no valleyvoice.com
Distribution: Call Misha, 415-752-1726

Display Advertising: Call Steve, 415-239-1114
Class Ads: See Page 49

Display Advertising Deadline for the
September 2008 Issue: Aug. 15, 2008
Editorial/Class Ad Deadline: Aug. 15, 2008

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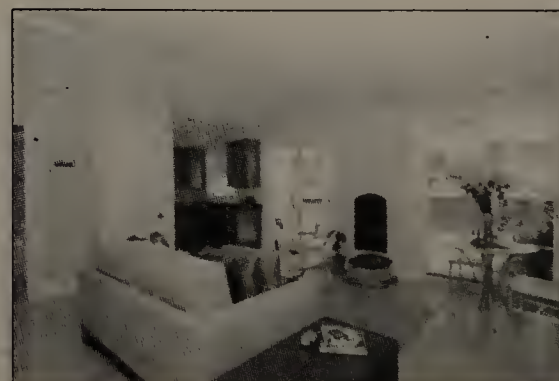
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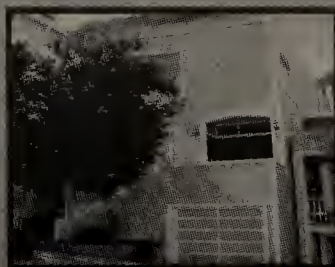
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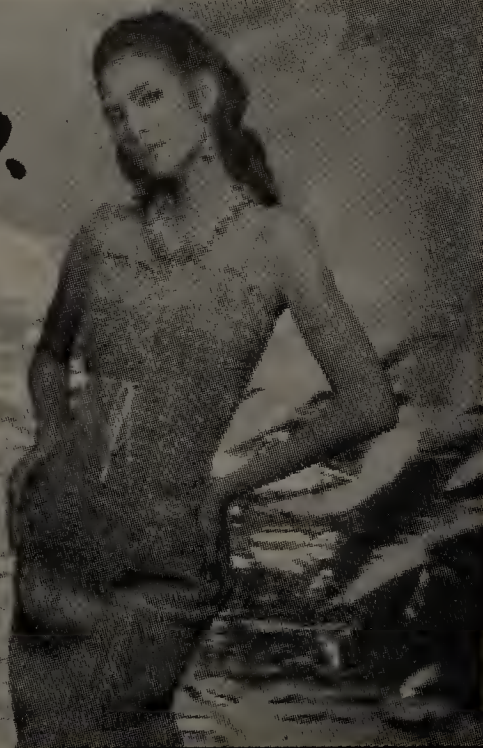
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Neighborhood Says Goodbye to Harry Aleo, 1919–2008

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Castro Street. But Aleo remained unruffled, he said.

His “Welcome to Looney Valley” jingle has now become a keepsake, inscribed on tins of chocolate at Chocolate Covered, the 24th Street candy store across the street from Twin Peaks Properties.

Slogans Only Part of the Story

If you had judged Aleo only by the slogans on his storefront, you might have been surprised by the other dimensions to his character.

“Outwardly,” said Yenne, “he could appear to be a hard shell, a curmudgeonly conservative. But he was really an authentic, caring, personable individual.”

“I never heard him say a bad thing about anyone,” agreed Roddick.

According to Yenne, Aleo often would sponsor local homeless people who were in need. She said he once helped out a man who was panhandling in Noe Valley by buying him a bus ticket to his family’s home. Later, Aleo received a postcard from the man, thanking him for the ticket and telling him that he had reconciled with his family and was making a new start.

He was also a good friend to Jesse Zele, the homeless man who used to sit in front of the municipal parking lot on 24th Street near Castro. Zele died in September 2005, but Aleo continued to keep several pictures him in his office window alongside the Republican presidents.

Neighborhood Came First

Aleo was a strong supporter of Noe Valley and the Noe Valley Merchants Association, to which he belonged for 60 years. He was president of the association for several terms. “He cared about Noe Valley in a way that not many did,” said Yenne. “He was a real pillar of the community.”

Despite his political leanings, Aleo supported and worked with Noe Valley’s Democratic supervisor Bevan Dufty. “He respected Bevan because he worked for the neighborhood,” said Yenne.

Dufty returned that respect: “Harry and I had a unique and wonderful relationship that probably mystified some people.” Dufty noted that Aleo went so far as to put one of Dufty’s campaign posters in his office window—right next to Reagan—during his 2002 run for supervisor.

“I was momentarily agasp,” Dufty recalled. “People are going to think I’m a Republican!” He added that the two got along, “even though I was gay and there



A day after the announcement of Harry Aleo’s death in late June, the flowers and notes started arriving at his Twin Peaks Properties storefront on 24th Street. Photo by Steve Steinberg

were some things about me that Harry didn’t get.”

Thank Him for Parking Lot

Roddick, who knew Aleo growing up in Noe Valley, said his friend “contributed like crazy” to local events. “He would always bring books and candy for the kids at Christmas and would always be there for the annual Noe Valley Hayride.”

One of Aleo’s biggest contributions to the neighborhood was the municipal parking lot on 24th Street. When the old Alta Mira movie theater came up for sale in the early 1960s, Aleo encouraged the Merchants Association to buy the building and turn the property into a badly needed parking lot, Roddick said. The association did not have the money, so Aleo bought it with his own funds in the association’s name. He then sold the property to the city under the condition that the city turn the land into a municipal lot.

A Soft Spot for Tenants

Although Aleo acquired numerous commercial and residential properties in San Francisco, he was not greedy. He took pride in treating his tenants well.

“He was a fantastic landlord, the best,” said Glen Potter, whose Accent on Flowers storefront on 24th Street was owned by Aleo. “He was fair to everyone who rented from him.”

In fact, according to Potter, Aleo would get upset if other landlords were exploiting their tenants. Potter said some of Aleo’s residential tenants paid less than market rate for their apartments. “He was generous with his tenants who couldn’t pay any more.”

One person who attempted to talk Aleo into taking a more business approach was Joel Panzer, head of Real Management Company on Castro Street. “Fifteen years

ago, I tried to convince him to let my company manage his properties. I told him we could get more rent than he was getting, and he could go to the horse races and relax.”

But Aleo would have none of it. “Let ‘em alone,” Panzer recalled Aleo saying of his tenants. “Whatever their rent is, that’s what it is.”

According to Panzer, Aleo said that when he got out of the army after World War II, he couldn’t find an apartment until a friend helped him. Aleo also told the *Noe Valley Voice* in a 1999 interview that when he first opened his real estate office he was assessed a very decent rent by the building’s owner. That landlord’s attitude also helped shape Aleo’s approach.

“He had a real soft spot for other people,” Panzer said. “He was a mensch, which [in Yiddish] means a human being.”

Although his business proposal came to naught, Panzer did develop a friendship with Aleo. The two men especially enjoyed looking at old documents and photos, of which Aleo had an extensive collection. Many of them adorned his 24th Street office window. There were photos of the 1955 Dodgers (that’s the Brooklyn Dodgers) and pictures of San Francisco homes with decades-old prices, as well as vintage newspapers and magazines. Panzer hopes Aleo’s collection can somehow be preserved, perhaps in the Noe Valley Library. He also would like the city to name Noe Valley’s parking lot in honor of Aleo.

It would seem a fitting gesture, not only because Aleo made the lot possible,

but because almost all of Aleo’s life was interwoven with Noe Valley. He was born here Dec. 7, 1919, and grew up above his parents’ fruit and vegetable market at 820 Diamond Street. Aleo attended Noe Valley Elementary, which used to be located on the site of the present-day Noe Courts park. Later he attended James Lick Junior High and then Mission High School.

From an early age, baseball was a big part of Aleo’s life. He played for San Francisco Junior College—today City College of San Francisco—and then went on to sign a minor-league contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Unfortunately, an injury to his arm ended his playing career, but he still remained an ardent Dodger fan, even after the team moved to Los Angeles.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Aleo joined the U.S. Army. He would eventually fight in the Battle of the Bulge with Gen. George Patton’s Third Army.

At war’s end, Aleo decided to get into the real estate business. In 1947, he and a partner opened Twin Peaks Properties on 24th Street where Haystack Pizza is today. He moved his office to its current location at 4072 24th Street in 1958.

Passion for Racehorses

Aside from real estate, Aleo’s other great love was thoroughbred horseracing. He became involved in the sport in the late 1970s and soon owned a series of multiple stakes winners. One of his horses, *Lost in the Fog*, achieved national prominence. The colt won its first 10 races, as well as the Eclipse Award as an outstanding sprinter in 2005. *Lost in the Fog* went on to earn almost a million dollars in winnings, before having to be euthanized, ironically because of cancer, in September 2006. The horse and its owner have been immortalized in a just-released documentary film by TV producer John Corey called *Lost in the Fog*.

Aleo is survived by his longtime companion Deannie Bartlett and three daughters, Carol, Terri, and Valerie. Family and friends held a memorial service on June 27 at Valente Marini Perata & Co. funeral home on Mission Street. Aleo was buried at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma.

Noe Valley expressed its grief last month by placing bouquets of flowers and poignant notes outside Aleo’s now closed office door. “Harry, we loved you,” said one. “Hope we meet again.” ■



Harry Aleo owned several racehorses including the prize-winning *Lost in the Fog*. In this 2005 photo, Aleo pauses for a picture while his groomers give *Fog* a bath. Photo by Beverly Thorp

Vicente Ayala Chief Executive Officer

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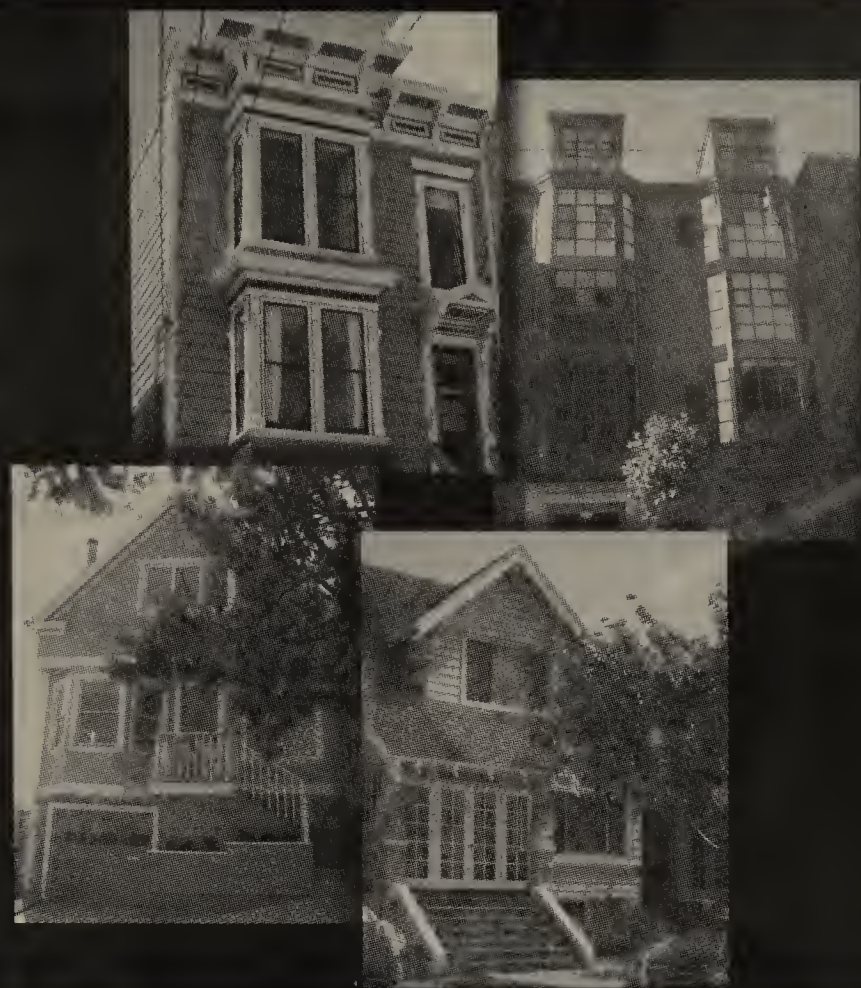
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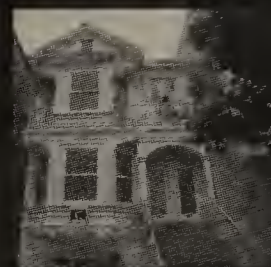
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Senior Center Frets After Turning Away Clients

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ity remains palpable among staff. They worry that local (and national) economic woes have placed an extra burden on those living on fixed incomes, and the number of seniors seeking meals at 30th Street is likely to grow faster than the budget to feed them.

"There's been a 20 percent increase in the number of seniors coming to 30th Street in the last three months, and I don't see that going down," says Valorie Villela, the center's longtime director. "The fact that more and more seniors are coming here means that if something doesn't change to increase our contract, we will be faced with turning [more] people away."

Food Program a Key Ingredient

That goes against the center's service mission. The center has helped draw thousands of San Franciscans in the years since 1979 when a group of Nicaraguan seniors started a small senior club in the building at 225 30th Street near Dolores Street. Its activities have grown to embrace a host of bilingual and bicultural programs, including health and recreational activities, and social services.

Two-thirds of the center's clients come from outer Noe Valley and the Mission District, while others show up from as far away as Visitacion Valley and the Golden Gate Panhandle. The center operates under the sponsorship of On Lok Inc., a non-profit seniors organization that receives annual funding from the city.

Filling empty stomachs plays a prominent role at the multipurpose facility. The



As the lunch crowd grows at 30th Street Senior Center, so do the staff's budget worries. For several weeks in late spring, the center had to limit the number of meals it served.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

center daily delivers some 200 hot meals to shut-in seniors—from the Bayview to South of Market neighborhoods—and provides an even larger number of meals for people who show up at the center itself, for two seatings at noon and 1 p.m. Seniors are asked for a voluntary \$1.50 donation, for lunches cooked daily at the center's on-site kitchen.

Seniors Living on a Shoestring

Though she's been a center habitué for 20 years, Frances Burns, a retired secretary, found herself at the cutoff end of a too-long line one day during the spring budget crisis. "I had to go looking for a restaurant in the neighborhood," says Burns, who also volunteers at the center. "The least expensive was a Thai restaurant and it cost me \$6.50."

Lena Herrera has been eating lunch at the center almost daily for the last six years. "It's my main meal of the day," she says. "It means a lot to me because I'm not able to cook for myself. There are a lot of seniors who don't have other people to help them."

Ben Lee, a retired waiter, rides two buses from the Golden Gate Park panhandle to take advantage of the bargain meal and to use the center's computers and exercise equipment. "This helps us [seniors] save money, especially nowadays."

Villela says that more than half of the center's clients are seniors with very low annual incomes of \$10,000 or less. That "means they don't eat if they don't come here," she says.

Money Runs Out Each Year

The current money crunch started last year, when the center was told that it would get funds to prepare only 85,000 lunches through June of this year—not the 96,000 meals it served up the previous fiscal year. Back then, the center appealed to the Board of Supervisors, and Dufty helped locate \$30,000, which allowed the center to plan for 93,000 meals this year. "It wasn't what we needed, but it was certainly better than 85,000 meals," says Villela.

By the end of May, however, Villela says she realized that so many newcomers were showing up for lunch that the center would soon "be 1,000 meals over our contract"—with little chance of city reimbursement. To avoid going over its

budget, the center chose to cut on-site meals to 170 a day, from an average of 230 a day.

"We were turning away 40 people a day," says Villela. "When they'd get here, there were no meals left."

But as word of the situation got out and center officials lobbied City Hall for help, the center got some good news. First, on June 13 the city found emergency funds for the center "to be able to go ahead and serve above our contract till June 30," says Villela. Then, a week later, Dufty's office called to tell the center that a \$30,000 budget cut planned for the 2008-09 fiscal year would be restored.

"With rising food costs, it couldn't come at a better time," said Dufty about the reprieve. Without the funds, there was no question "that seniors in our city would go hungry, and that's just not acceptable. I could not imagine any cuts to this program."

Saturday Meals Threatened

Villela says, however, that "the current budget is inadequate," because it maintains the status quo and does not take into account the rising number of seniors who are coming to the center for inexpensive, well-balanced meals. "The unmet need in our current contract is still a great concern."

She says the center needs an additional \$20,000 to ensure that it is "out of the dark." With the extra money, the center could serve 240 meals a day "without changing our whole service, and prevent us from having to turn people away."

In a worst-case scenario, Villela says the center might have to eliminate the Saturday meals. That would be a catastrophe, says Marianne Hampton, chair of Friends of 30th Street Senior Center, a group of volunteers that supports the center.

"Seniors count on these meals," says Hampton. "And they'll go hungry the entire weekend."

The largesse of local residents could also make a difference, says Dufty. "I hope the [public] considers making a small donation."

Hampton says her Friends group has been working on a fundraising strategy. "I think we might have a campaign where we send letters to the neighborhood and ask for their help," she says. There are also out-of-state resources, and "we're trying to get them to help us."

Contributions can be made directly to the center or to the Friends. People can contact Hampton at Marianne.Hampton@comcast.net. For information about 30th Street Senior Center, call 415-550-2210 or go to www.onlok.org. ■

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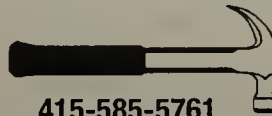


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Steve Hebert, now deceased, was interviewed and pictured in the *Voice* while he worked at Goodwill in 2002. The online story provided his daughter, New Hampshire resident Tamara Cocchiarella, with some precious clues to Hebert's life in San Francisco. Photo by Beverly Thorp

A Father Lost and Found in Noe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

trative assistant and student at New Hampshire's Plymouth State University, discovered during an Internet search on Ancestry.com that her father had died in California on Nov. 29, 2007.

"It was just purely by looking for his parents that I saw his name was listed there, and listed as deceased. I was shocked because there had always been this hope of one day finding him," recalled Cocchiarella, who lives in Plymouth, N.H., with her husband and two children, ages 9 and 11.

The news of Hebert's death launched Cocchiarella on a renewed mission to find out about her father's life and the circumstances surrounding his death. Over the years, she had tried to uncover details about Hebert, and had even discovered that he had at least three other children with women other than her mother, but a strained relationship with both her mother and her biological father's extended family had turned the search into difficult, sometimes acrimonious work.

Days after learning of her father's death, she got her first break. An online hunt for an obituary revealed mention of a Steve Hebert in two news stories, both of which happened to be published in a monthly newspaper tied to a San Francisco neighborhood with a curious-sounding name. Steve Hebert figured heavily in both stories, written by Kathy Dalle-Molle and published in the *Noe Valley Voice* (www.noevalleyvoice.com).

In May 2001, the *Voice* ran an obituary, "Walter Farmer, 1943-2001," that profiled a longtime homeless man and friend of Hebert's who spent his days in a wheelchair on 24th Street. In February 2002, the *Voice* ran "Steve Hebert Finds Where There's a Goodwill There's a Way," a profile of Hebert's attempts to transition out of homelessness as a participant in a Goodwill Industries employee training program.

The stories added more details to the patchwork history in Cocchiarella's mind. Her father had spent several years in San Francisco. He had married, though his wife had died suddenly in 1998, a tragedy that apparently precipitated Hebert's spiral into homelessness. He drove a Volkswagen van and occasionally worked as a laborer and sold copies of the *Street Sheet* to earn money.

"I learned more about him from reading that article than anything I could have found. I never knew he had a bagel and cream cheese for breakfast. Information

such as that was so valuable to me. I didn't know he wore glasses until I got the picture of him from [the *Voice*]. I was the only one in the family who wore glasses. My mother would always say, 'I don't know why you wear glasses, nobody else in the family wears glasses.' It's really surreal to read details about somebody you've been looking for, in a newspaper," Cocchiarella said.

She also learned that Hebert was a gentle man who went out of his way to help a friend in trouble.

"It was kind of heartbreaking to find that the people of Noe Valley were like his family, because I *was* his family," Cocchiarella said.

Still, years had passed since the publication of those stories. Understandably, Cocchiarella wanted to know more. She contacted the *Voice*, the Goodwill program that had counted her father as a participant, and the editor of the *Street Sheet*. Dalle-Molle from the *Voice* shared her memories of interviews, and the editors sent Cocchiarella copies of newspapers, but no one was able to offer much current information. There were no records of Hebert's work at Goodwill, nor did the *Street Sheet* count him as a current vendor at the time of his death.

Cocchiarella was left to wonder a litany of things: How did he die? Was he alone? Was he even still living in San Francisco at the time? And, of course, she wondered about the larger questions that she'd wanted to ask Hebert ever since she was a child.

"I would have asked and still wonder, why did he leave?... I don't necessarily blame him for walking away, but I don't understand if you leave a marriage, how can you leave a child behind?" Cocchiarella asked.

Finally, a call to the San Francisco Medical Examiner's Office revealed that Stephen James Hebert had, indeed, died at age 56 in San Francisco on Nov. 29, 2007, in his apartment at the Pacific Bay Inn, a supportive housing facility located next door to Dottie's True Blue Cafe in the Tenderloin, and operated by Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco. His was categorized as an accidental indigent death due to pneumonia complicated by methadone intoxication. A veteran, Hebert was buried at the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery in Merced, Calif.

Pain and myriad questions remain, but there are conclusions for Cocchiarella, too. "I have lived my life trying to learn from my parents' mistakes, my father walking away and my mother staying in loveless marriages. The difference is that I put my children's interests first," she says.

A Blank Canvas and a Daughter's Search

By Tamara Cocchiarella

New Hampshire resident Tamara Cocchiarella sent this essay, which she originally wrote to accompany an art class project, after contacting the Voice seeking information about her father, Steve Hebert (see story, starting page 1). Her words inspired the newspaper to help her in her search for the father she never had a chance to know. If you remember Steve Hebert, Tamara would love to hear from you. You can reach her via e-mail at tcocchiarella@mail.plymouth.edu or by phone at 603-535-2822.

My visual memory has always been, in my opinion, slightly above average. Take me somewhere once and I can easily recall how to get there again. I walked into our neighbor's house once two years ago and can easily visualize the floor plan and the color on the walls. I can remember what my children wore on their first day of kindergarten. I can easily recall names and faces of people I meet, all except one, that is....

I have always known the man raising me was not my biological father. My "real" father's name was Stephen James Hebert. He was born on Oct. 14, 1951, making him one year older than my mother. I have no early memories of him. He left when I was only 2. I would fantasize that one day he would come back for me because all my relatives said I was "Daddy's little girl" and he just adored me. The thought of "Why did he leave me?" never occurred to a 6-year-old mind and wouldn't until I was older. My mother would tell me stories of this man, my father, and I idolized him like I was a princess in a fairy tale waiting to be rescued. A few years later, we moved to a new apartment building in a neighboring town (it was red, the kitchen was white, the carpet was brown), and my mother secretly told me that my father's aunt, Ora (my brother and I would affectionately call her Aunt Oreo), lived just down the street from us. I would convince my brother—younger than I but always my protector—to ride our banana-seat bicycles by her house. We did this for months before I could muster the courage to quietly knock on her porch door. She recognized my brother and me instantly and welcomed our infrequent visits, always with an offering of milk and cookies (Oreos...and my brother and I would giggle). My fantasy of one day seeing my father was sooner to becoming a reality, I thought. My life would never be the same....

I never knew of any other visitors to my aunt's house, except on one particular day when my father's sister—my godmother in her pink suit and black turtleneck holding me in a blue-and-white checkered dress, as pictured on the day of my christening—arrived unexpectedly. Aunt Ora exclaimed, "Your aunt Donna is here, but I didn't think she was coming until tomorrow..." The visit was brief, as my brother and I needed to get back to our apartment before my stepfather returned from work and discovered our secret getaway. But before I left, I asked my blood relative, with curiosity and perhaps a bit of sadness too, if she knew my *real* father. She replied, "Yes." We rode our bikes fast, and I never even disclosed to my mother the exciting happenings of the day.

About three weeks later, I was sitting on that brown carpet, with my back resting against a chair getting ready to surreptitiously watch *General Hospital*. I was 10 years old. My brother came running in and said, "There's a lady in the driveway in a blue Bronco who says she knows you." I suspiciously went to the door and indeed recognized this lady as the aunt we had met a short while ago. She was sitting on the passenger side leaning forward. She smiled and said, "I've brought you an Easter present." Then she leaned back, and there was my father.

Partly in shock, I walked toward the vehicle and said, "Hi, Steve." I sat on his lap and asked him when my birthday was. He recited the date exactly, affirmation in my mind that he had loved me all along. We drove for a while until it was time for me to get back home. Before he left, he wrote his phone number on a piece of paper and wrote "Dad." I instantly felt this open wound seeping in my stomach, and I cried hysterically. When he asked what was wrong, I could barely get the words out. "I feel like you're going to leave me again." He promised he wouldn't, and I never saw him again.

I have played that scene in my head time and time again, remembering every detail: my brother coming in, me going out and seeing my aunt, her leaning back, and then the feeling of instant recognition of my father. But I cannot remember his face. It has become a blank canvas. I remember no physical details. Fast-forward. He drops me off and hands me his phone number. I still see nothing. He drives away. Nothing.

I can remember birthdays of childhood friends, exact conversations verbatim, paragraphs and pictures in a textbook, but I cannot see my father's face.

And armed with the new information that has flooded into her life in the last month, Cocchiarella has found a certain kind of freedom from the past.

After learning of the circumstances surrounding her father's death, she said: "It is time to...turn the page and begin to heal. I need to believe that my father wanted a better life for himself, and he wouldn't want me to dwell on 'what could have been,' but rather what is. His struggle serves as a window into my strength, and perhaps I am exactly the person I was meant to be, not in spite of

him, but because of him."

Lastly, Cocchiarella has the following advice for fathers who find themselves estranged from their children:

"If there is another homeless man who has a child and is wondering, 'Should I make that phone call?' Take it from me. Make that phone call." ■

Tamara Cocchiarella is still seeking information, memories, and reflections from anyone who might have known her father. You can reach her by e-mail at tcocchiarella@mail.plymouth.edu.



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HOW GREEN is my VALLEY

Salute to Victory Gardens

By Hilary Gordon

The San Francisco Victory Garden Project 2008+ has received 250 applications for 15 slots. Not too shabby, but as more San Franciscans hear about the project, the number is bound to grow. Those whose applications are selected will have a home vegetable garden started for them by experienced gardeners, with the materials paid for by the city. Sound too good to be true? It wouldn't be the first time the city of San Francisco got ahead of the curve.

'Our Food Is Fighting!'

This patriotic sentiment, which promoted home vegetable gardening, was published on posters all over the United States during World War II. In the 1940s, civilians showed their solidarity with the war effort by planting "victory" gardens in front and back yards, on roofs, in parks, anywhere where there was a little soil. Photographs from that time show neat rows of vegetables growing in front of San Francisco's City Hall and in Golden Gate Park. By 1945, victory gardens were providing 40 percent of the nation's food. This home food production freed up resources and labor for the war effort, and contributed to the Allied victory.

From the Trenches to MOMA

This history was resurrected when San Francisco artist Amy Franceschini traveled to Belgium with her husband in 2006. As Franceschini was pulling up cobblestones to plant a vegetable garden in front of their home in Ghent, a neighbor woman began calling to her in Flemish. When Franceschini found a translator, it turned out that the woman was telling her that she could be reimbursed by the city for the money she'd spent on vegetable gardening. In Ghent, vegetable gardening is seen as civically and environmentally responsible, and is underwritten by the government.

Franceschini's creative imagination was sparked, and when she returned to San Francisco to complete an artistic installation at the Museum of Modern Art, one of her pieces featured images of the victory gardens of the 1940s, the last time the U.S. government asked citizens to grow their own vegetables.



Budding agricultural experts test the soil for a victory garden at the non-profit Garden for the Environment.

Photo by Blair Randall

Franceschini's art reflects what she calls "utopian ideas with real world applications."

From the Museum to the Back Yard

The victory garden idea came out of the art museum and into the mundane world when Amy contacted the office of the Garden for the Environment, San Francisco's non-profit demonstration garden at Seventh Avenue and Lawton Street. The GFE's Education Program manager, Blair Randall, was enthusiastic about the idea. "The experience of growing food is, sadly, disappearing," says Randall. "To empower city residents to grow their own food requires as much knowledge as it does materials."

Franceschini and Randall got city support to install a demonstration victory garden at the GFE, showing how much food could be grown in a small backyard garden. The city also helped them to install three food gardens for San Franciscan families in 2007. The labor and materials were free for the families, who in turn promised to care for their gardens without using chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

This year, the victory garden project

will install 15 home food gardens with financial support from the city. Any San Francisco resident can apply for a garden any time of year. Just download the application at sfvictorygardens.org or pick up a paper application at City Hall.

Launch the Garden with Baby Lettuce

Brooke Budner cares for the victory garden demonstration at the Garden for the Environment at Seventh Avenue and Lawton. Her advice to home gardeners starting their first food-growing project is: Start small, observe closely, and keep it fun.

A first project Budner recommends is growing baby lettuces for salad mix. Here are her tips:

- Buy baby lettuce starts from the nursery, or start from seed in a planter box or in pots on a windowsill. For a zippy salad, include dill, basil, mint, or parsley.
- Plant baby lettuces in rich soil, in part shade during summer months, full sun in winter.
- Keep the soil moist, especially at the seedling stage. Check every day in hot weather. Don't ever let them dry out completely.
- When the lettuces have several leaves, you can begin cutting one or two leaves off each plant carefully with scissors.
- When they start trying to get tall and flower, they become bitter in flavor. That's a good time to set out another crop. If you start your lettuces from seed, sow more every two weeks for a continuous harvest.

Lots more detailed information on growing vegetables is available. For Bay Area-specific advice, check out Pam Peirce's book *Golden Gate Gardening*.

—Hilary Gordon

A Summer Victory Garden at Civic Center

Slow Food Nation and Victory Gardens 2008+ are pitching in to create an ornamental and edible garden this summer at the San Francisco Civic Center, in the same site as victory gardens planted during World War II. According to garden coordinator John Bela, of CMG Landscape Architecture (one of many project sponsors), the garden will feature a variety of heirloom organic vegetables and will show off the latest in urban food-growing practices. The harvested food will be donated to people in need, through a partnership with local food banks and meals programs.

The groundbreaking and installation of the Slow Food Nation Victory Garden will take place July 1-11, with planting workshops running from July 12 through Sept. 21. Coinciding with the first harvest, Slow Food Nation will hold a series of events across the city on Labor Day weekend (go to www.slowfoodnation.org). Food donations will be made on Sept. 21, Community Harvest Day.

Bela says the project is looking for volunteers in all sorts of capacities. "You can help by providing seeds or seed propagation space, helping to transplant seed in the garden, cultivating and harvesting vegetables, or all of the above," he says. "We also need volunteers to help build, maintain, and then remove the garden. We are seeking financial support and in-kind material donations. All donations are tax-deductible."

For more information, e-mail Bela at john@sfvictorygardens.org or call 350-8257.

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by Alexis E. Fajardo



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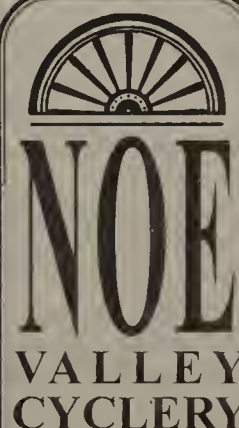


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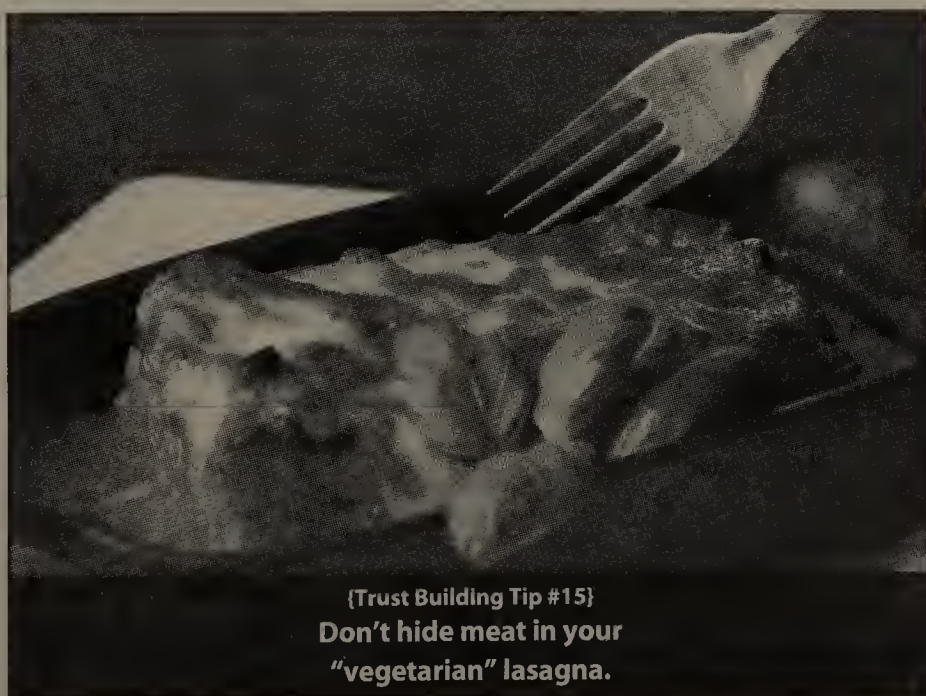


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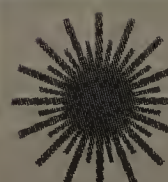


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The Cost of Living in Noe

Home Sales Creep Up, Condos Droop

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley experienced a fresh spate of home sales in May, as homebuyers closed escrow on 14 residential properties, the highest monthly total so far this year.

According to monthly data supplied to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate, sales of single-family detached homes have inched up almost steadily since the first of the year. There were 7 transactions recorded in January, 8 in February, 11 in March, and 10 in April.

May's buyers, on average, paid 5 percent more than the seller's asking price. And front-door keys were exchanged in about a month's time. That data indicates that Noe Valley remains one of San Francisco's most desirable neighborhoods.

Still, the average sales price for May 2008 (\$1.4 million) was about 20 percent lower than a year ago. The average price in May of 2007 was nearly \$1.8 million. Noe Valleyans should not put too much stock in the comparison, however. Our monthly sample size is too small: 14 homes this year, and 12 last year.

In May '08, the properties with "all the bells and whistles [were] the ones attracting a lot of attention and selling for more than 5 percent over," said Zephyr real estate agent Rob Rogers. "They're more like 10 and 20 percent over."

Rogers said trade-up buyers, with wal-

lets filled with cash from stock sales or equity from sales of another home, propelled those May house sales. "A lot of people were buying with cash," Rogers said. They can forgo the hefty bank loan.

With condos, it's a different story. Zephyr reported only three condominium sales in May, compared with seven in April and 11 in May of last year.

Rogers said "consumer confidence is down" among buyers in the market for condos, which generally cost considerably less than detached homes.

Those buyers "are more reliant on [mortgage] loans, and I think they're a little scared about interest climbing into the upper 6 percent—and that takes some of the affordability away."

May's priciest home and the most expensive condo were both found in the southern half of Noe Valley.

A tri-level home with four bedrooms, three bathrooms, 3,600 square feet of living space, and a one-car garage sold for \$2,675,000. It sits on the 700 block of 27th Street between Douglass and Diamond streets.

And buyers paid \$1,249,000 for a condo in a two-unit, Marina-style building that featured three bedrooms and two baths. The 1,699-square-foot home is also located on 27th Street, between Church and Dolores streets. ■



Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
May 2008	14	\$850,000	\$2,675,000	\$1,409,714	33	105%
April 2008	10	\$935,000	\$2,200,000	\$1,534,000	17	104%
May 2007	12	\$925,000	\$2,950,000	\$1,765,000	28	105%
Condominiums						
May 2008	3	\$525,000	\$1,249,000	\$783,333	23	102%
April 2008	7	\$800,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,174,000	31	105%
May 2007	11	\$340,000	\$1,410,000	\$880,818	31	105%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
May 2008	4	\$1,185,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,615,000	23	104%
April 2008	3	\$1,500,000	\$1,575,000	\$1,550,000	37	105%
May 2007	7	\$1,296,000	\$2,200,000	\$1,561,571	33	103%
5+ unit buildings						
May 2008	0	—	—	—	—	—
April 2008	0	—	—	—	—	—
May 2007	1	\$3,114,000	\$3,114,000	\$3,114,000	154	102%

* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley is defined in this survey as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr-re.com) for supplying the sales data.

NV 7/08

A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents**

Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents May-June 2008	Average May-June 2008	Average May-June 2007
Studio	6	\$1,300 – \$1,600	\$1,433 / mo.	\$1,416 / mo.
1-bedroom	29	\$1,500 – \$2,600	\$2,023 / mo.	\$1,909 / mo.
2-bedroom	23	\$2,280 – \$3,600	\$2,854 / mo.	\$2,402 / mo.
3-bedroom	10	\$2,800 – \$5,500	\$3,902 / mo.	\$3,535 / mo.
4+-bedroom	6	\$3,750 – \$10,400	\$6,041 / mo.	\$4,925 / mo.

** Survey based on a sample of 74 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist from May 26 to June 15, 2008.

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CRIME BEAT

Report from Mission Station

By Officer Jane Warner
San Francisco Patrol Special Police

The following crime summaries were culled from reports filed at Mission Police Station. They cover some but not all incidents occurring in the northern half of Noe Valley, during the period April 16 to May 15, 2008. In general, that area includes the blocks bordered by Grand View, 20th, Guerrero, and Cesar Chavez streets, although this month we've also listed an incident in the Castro District.

Hit and Run, 24th and Dolores, 6-4-08, 5:03 p.m.: While traveling southbound on Dolores Street, a woman reported to police that her car was slightly rear-ended by another car, an older blue Honda, whose driver kept driving, failing to stop and exchange information. The woman, who reported only minor damage to her 2003 Subaru, was able to jot down the fleeing vehicle's license plate and turn it over to police for further investigation.

Online Reporting

The SFPD has an online reporting system for the following crimes:

- Lost Property
- Theft
- Vandalism/Graffiti
- Vehicle Tampering
- Vehicle Burglary
- Harassing Phone Calls

Using this system allows you to submit a report and instantly print out a copy. Additional information is available at the SFPD's website: www.sfgov.org/police.

Theft, Bank Card, 500 block of Castro, 6-6-08, 8:13 p.m.: After using the ATM machines outside the Castro branch of the Bank of America, a woman realized she had left her card in the machine. When she returned to the ATMs a few minutes later, she noticed a man was using the dispenser she had used. "I left my card in the ATM. Did you see it?" the woman asked. "No, I don't think so," the man casually replied and walked away after completing his transaction. After he had left, a witness told the woman he had observed the ATM "beeping" as the man approached the machine, looked around, and then used the card. The woman searched the area but could not find the suspect, described as a six-foot white male, 38 to 45 years old, weighing 190 pounds, with brown curly hair and glasses, and wearing a jacket over a dress shirt. She called Bank of America to report the theft and was informed a transaction had recently occurred at the Castro branch ATM in the amount of \$420.

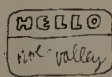
Burglary, 1200 block of Sanchez, 6-7-08, 1:08 a.m.: While sleeping in her bedroom, a woman heard what sounded like footsteps on her livingroom floor. Getting up to investigate, she peered out her bedroom door and saw the beam of a flashlight waving in the dark. The woman walked into the living room toward the light, unaware she was standing next to an intruder. Without speaking, the male suspect ran across the living room and jumped out a second-story window, landing on the ground below. As the man ran away, the woman yelled to other tenants in the building, one of whom heard the woman screaming and gave chase, pursuing the suspect on Clipper Street. When they neared Dolores, the tenant picked up a brick and threw it at the suspect, striking him in the back. The man kept run-

ning, however. The tenant lost sight of the suspect, described as a Hispanic male, 40 to 45 years old, six-foot-one, 200 pounds, muscular, and wearing a white T-shirt and light blue jeans. The woman told responding police that she had recently placed an ad on Craigslist to rent out one of her bedrooms. Police surmised the suspect had scaled the side of the building and climbed in through an unsecured window. Nothing was reported missing.

Theft from Vehicle, 22nd and Dolores, 6-8-08, 11:15 a.m. (reported): A woman reported to police that she had parked and locked her black Mazda Miata on 22nd Street near Dolores. When she returned the next morning, she discovered that the passenger-side panel window had been broken out and the car stereo, valued at about \$500, had been ripped out of the vehicle's center console. Although the car had been rummaged through, nothing else was missing or damaged. There was no known suspect.

Theft from Person, 26th and Church, 6-13-08, 11:13 a.m.: Officer Calvin Chow, assigned to Mission Station, responded to a call about a stolen laptop at 26th and Church streets. Upon arrival, he met with the victim, who reported that he had been sitting at an outdoor café when a man ran up to his table and snatched his laptop. The suspect, described as a five-foot-eight Hispanic male, 20 to 25 years old, 165 pounds, wearing a white-sleeved sweatshirt and light-colored pants, ran across the street, where he got into a parked silver four-door Honda and drove away eastbound on 26th Street. The victim gave chase on foot, but soon lost sight of the vehicle as it neared Dolores Street. When the man returned to the café, a witness gave him the license plate number of the suspect's vehicle, which he had copied down during the escape. The victim passed the number on to Officer Chow. He also informed Chow that security cameras in front of a nearby property had picked up images of the suspect's vehicle as it was driving from the scene. Officer Chow, who had been informed of a similar robbery in the Ingleside District, called Officer Marty Bandvik, who had handled that case. Officer Bandvik responded that the license plate number and the suspect description were the same in both cases. Officer Chow filed a report and forwarded his findings to Inspector Alex Bini of the SFPD's Robbery Detail.

Jane Warner is a member of the San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which is a private group whose officers receive training from the SFPD. To contact her, e-mail sfpdpatrol@earthlink.net or call 415-559-9955.



Noe's Police Districts

Noe Valley falls under the wing of two San Francisco police districts: Mission and Ingleside. Mission Police Station covers the northern half of the neighborhood, including 24th Street, and Ingleside the southern half, starting at Cesar Chavez Street.

Both districts hold monthly meetings that are open to the public. Mission Police District's community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, at 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. Ingleside's community meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Police Station off Balboa Park at San Jose Avenue. To contact Mission Police, call 558-5400 or e-mail SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us. To contact Ingleside, call 404-4000 or e-mail SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us. To report a crime in progress, call 911. For non-emergencies, call 553-0123.

Report from Ingleside Station

The Voice thanks Ingleside Police Captain Denis O'Leary for providing the following crime log for Upper Noe Valley, an area roughly bordered by Cesar Chavez Street, Guerrero/San Jose Avenue, 30th Street, and Diamond Heights Boulevard. The log covers incidents reported from May 16 to June 15, 2008. If you would like to receive Capt. O'Leary's weekly e-mail newsletter, send an e-mail to InglesideStationNewsletter-subscribe@yahoo.com. You can also view updates online at www.sfgov.org.

UPPER NOE VALLEY CRIME LOG

Capt. Denis O'Leary's Incident Report for May 16 to June 15, 2008

Narcotics Violation, Castro and Day, 5-17-08, 5 p.m.: Officer To investigated a suspicious vehicle and cited a SOMA District man for possession of drugs; case #080517699.

Residential Burglary, 600 block of 30th, 5-18-08, 7 p.m.: Occurred between May 16 and 18. Forced entry via garage. Computers and DVD player taken.

Residential Burglary, 200 block of 29th, 5-20-08, 3:15 p.m.: Forced entry via front door. Camera, mountain bike, and cash taken.

Battery/Arrest, 1500 block of Church, 5-25-08, 10 p.m.: A 44-year-old Noe Valley woman was charged with battery in a domestic violence case; case #080549755.

Armed Robbery, 200 block of Valley, 5-27-08, 5:30 p.m.: A man approached a couple seated on a stoop as they used a laptop computer. The man demanded the computer and tried to pull it from them. When they resisted, he brandished a handgun. They relinquished the computer, and the man and his accomplice, a woman, fled in a four-door silver Toyota Camry.

Vandalism to Parked Cars, 100 block of Duncan, 5-27-08, 8 p.m.:

Strong-Arm Robbery, 1400 block of Sanchez, 5-28-08, 5:30 p.m.: A 58-year-old Noe Valley woman was pushed from behind by a teenager, who pulled her purse from her shoulder.

Theft, 400 block of Day, 5-29-08, 11:30 a.m.: A resident reported that someone forced open the security gate to her home sometime between May 28 & 29. The thief made off with a bicycle.

Grand Theft, 200 block of Duncan, 5-29-08, 4:30 p.m.: A 60-year-old New York resident was accosted on the staircase of her daughter's home. A thief took the woman's wallet from her hand. The victim gave chase to the perpetrator, but he got away.

Contempt of Court/Arrest, 300 block of 27th, 5-29-08, 6:45 p.m.: A 22-year-old Noe Valley woman subject to a court order forbidding contact with protected parties went to their home and threw a rock through a window. Officer McWilliams and posse found the woman outside the home and arrested her for violating a court order and for vandalism; case #080564311.

Auto Burglary, 1800 block of Church, 5-30-08, 8 p.m.:

Attempted Auto Burglary, 28th and Castro, 6-5-08, 12:00 a.m.:

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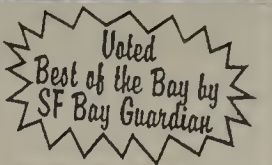
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Don't Trample The Trees, Please

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the street's heavy foot traffic.

"I've seen cross-bars, which were meant to stabilize trees, karate-chopped in half," reports Niemann. "You don't want to think that people who walk down the same streets as you do are capable of doing things like that, but that's the reality."

She's also seen people use the tree wells as their personal trash can, tossing shopping bags, coffee cups, and junk left over from garage sales.

Niemann points out that one of the biggest threats to a young tree's survival is dog urine. The urine coagulates around the tree well, contaminating the soil, she says. The trees outside of Walgreen's have had to be removed twice, both times due to an excess of dog urine, Niemann says.

Certain saplings can't stand the abuse. "There is a tipping point for going green," says Niemann, noting that the NVA's annual budget of \$225,000 allows for only so much upkeep and tree replacement.

Sharon Korotkin, of the landscape firm Korotkin Associates, which at the NVA's request has been involved in the maintenance of over 100 trees in Noe Valley since the fall of last year, says there are myriad factors impacting a tree's survival. To increase a tree's chances, she recommends a good pedigree.

"There are certain types of trees that are hardier, like ginkgoes, which have been around as long as cockroaches and crocodiles. They've had a long history of adapting to different conditions in order to survive."

Korotkin says the young ginkgo trees are outside Starbucks at 24th and Noe streets. The vast majority of the other

newly planted trees are kwanzan cherry and callery pear trees, she says.

As for the canine problem, Korotkin says the high salt content in dog urine rests on top of the soil, sucking the moisture out and robbing the tree of its natural irrigation system. For that matter, when a human, dog, or any other mammal tramples on the soil bed surrounding a newly planted tree, the pressure pushes oxygen out of the soil and deprives the roots of important nutrients.

"Animals are territorial," Korotkin noted. "If they urinate in one place, they tend to urinate in it time and time again. Any newly planted tree is going to suffer if dog owners allow their pets to treat trees as toilet bowls. People need to curb their dogs."

Trash, Dog Pee, and Now Aphids

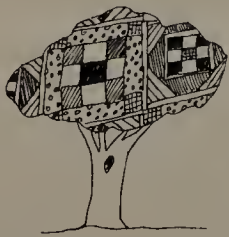
And then there are the aphids.

Aphids are disastrous for trees. They feed on twigs, branches, and bark. They also secrete a sweet paste called honeydew, which attracts ants. The ants often act as guardians of aphid eggs, transporting them en masse up tree trunks. To combat the tiny scourges, Korotkin introduces an insect larva which lays eggs inside the bodies of the aphids. When the larva hatches, the insect eats the aphid from the inside out.

"It's kind of gross, but that's the insect world for you," Korotkin says with a laugh.

Although she's seen a few trees felled by neighborhood miscreants of various shapes, sizes, and secretions, Korotkin revels in her job protecting Noe Valley's urban groves.

"There's a wonderful aesthetic component to trees that's very obvious," says Korotkin. "But trees are a life-giving entity that's crucial to our survival as a species, and it's wonderful to be a part of that."



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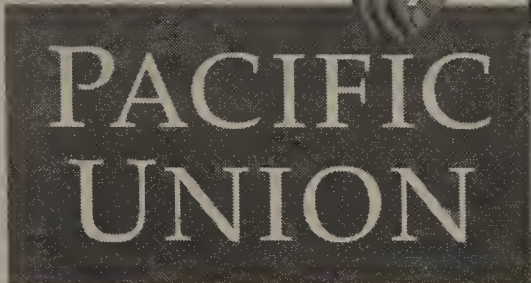
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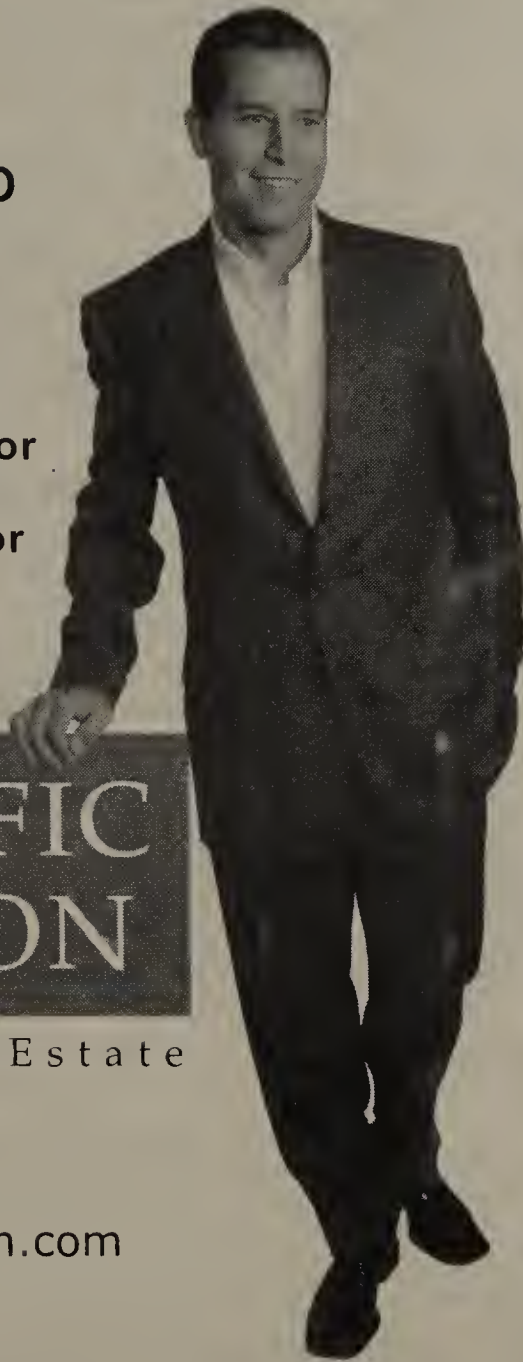


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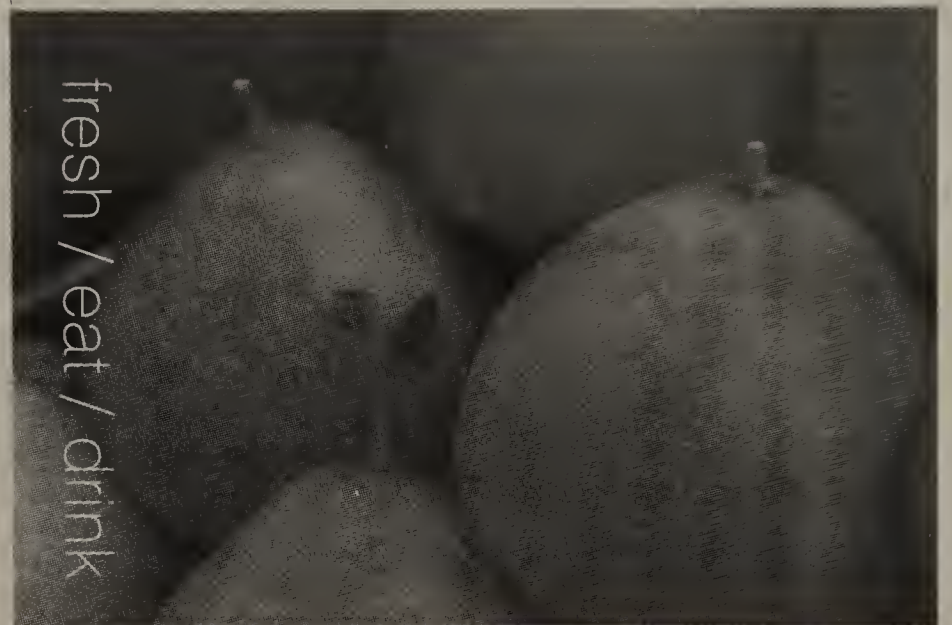
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SHORT TAKES

Demos Do Health Care

The politics of national health care and a fundraising bash will take center stage this summer at two events hosted by the Noe Valley Democratic Club.

First up in July is a panel discussion on national platforms for health care. Speakers from four groups—the Democratic presidential campaign of Barack Obama, the Republican presidential campaign of John McCain, the California Nurses Association, and the San Francisco Health Department—will present their views on the topic.

The forum is set for Wednesday, July 16, 7:30 p.m., at St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond Street between Elizabeth and 24th. Parking is available in the lot behind the church off Elizabeth Street.

There will be considerably less gravitas at the club's monthly meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 13, when the venue shifts to the French bistro Le Zinc, 4063 24th Street between Noe and Castro streets. That's where the club will hold its fifth annual Celebrate Summer Bash, for two hours starting at 6:30 p.m.

The party is also a fundraiser, underwriting the club's political action activities and election door-hangers. Members and guests can enjoy wine, appetizers, and a raffle of prizes donated by Noe Valley merchants, including gift certificates to restaurants, spas, or a dinner with your favorite politician.

Tickets for the event, which is open to the public, cost \$35. For advance tickets or to get more information, call or e-mail Molly Fleischman at 398-4140 or molly@ffrsf.com.

Feed the Kids

The San Francisco Food Bank is asking for donations to supply healthy food to children this summer, particularly those who are used to getting free or low-cost lunches during the school year. Summer costs parents' extra money, as anyone searching for childcare or

paying higher grocery bills knows, and donations of money, food, or time will be a boon to students, the organization says.

Each \$10 donation will pay for meals for 40 children, points out Marguerite Nowak, the Food Bank's advocacy and education manager. She says the 21-year-old non-profit reaches out to families during the summer by advertising a summer lunch program run by the city's Department of Children, Youth, and Families and by donating fresh fruit, cheese, and juice for snacks. It also stocks pantries in places where families might come together, like Boys and Girls Clubs and community resource centers.

The Food Bank's role has become even more important as donations of staple foods, like rice and tuna from the federal government, have dropped 60 percent in the past five years, Nowak says.

Call 282-1907 or visit www.sffoodbank.org for more information.

Friends Seek Tree Lovers

Want the chance to meet your neighbors, do something green for the Earth, and celebrate with a potluck lunch afterwards?

If so, you might want to sign up to plant a tree along your block this summer. The non-profit Friends of the Urban Forest is helping to organize a tree-planting in the southern end of Noe Valley, and both homeowners and renters can take part. (Renters can get involved by putting Friends in touch with their building owner.)

Participants can either plant trees in a sidewalk basin or in a front-yard area. The trees are available at a lower cost when a certain number of people on a block sign up. Friends shares its tools, labor, and advice on tree choices. The group also welcomes donations to fund trees for people who might not otherwise be able to afford them.

Each year in San Francisco, Friends plants more than 1,500 trees, which help beautify the streets, slow the wind, gather rain, and diminish the amount of runoff. "The trees also give everyone a place to rest on the way up the hills," laughs Fiona Smythe, a 28th Street resident working to enlist her neighbors in the planting. "A little known fact, which I just discovered, is that Noe Valley is home to the first

Friends of the Urban Forest tree in San Francisco, planted in front of where Fresca is now some 10 years ago."

To get involved, visit www.fuf.net or contact Smythe at fiona_smythe@berkeley.edu or 642-3243.

Art in the Abstract

Little Tree Gallery, a block or so down the hill at 22nd and Guerrero streets, will feature abstract and conceptual art in this year's Summer Student Show on display from July 16 to Aug. 23.

The first artist in the annual series will be San Francisco Art Institute student Sehwon Min. Her show, "Inside Of," will be exhibited July 16 to Aug. 2, with an opening reception on Saturday, July 19, from 6 to 9 p.m.

According to gallery owner J. Brent Large, the images in Min's abstract watercolors and oil paintings bear a resemblance to densely layered bark. He says he and his wife Forest, who is co-curating the show, had a visceral reaction when they first saw the work. "The abstract themes have this great meditative quality about them," he said.

From Aug. 6 to 23, the gallery will be transformed into the Mafia Social Club, a conceptual work by Andrew Tosiello and curator Clare Haggarty, both recent graduates of master's programs at California College of the Arts. They will take surveillance photos and record conversations, then broadcast the results to podcasts and the Web. Their opening reception will be Saturday, Aug. 9.

Both receptions serve free beer and are open to all. Little Tree, a gallery that aims to make reasonably priced contemporary art more accessible to local residents and artists, is at 3412 22nd Street and is open Wednesday to Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. or by appointment.

For more information, call 643-4929 or visit www.littletreegallery.com.



"Untitled" by Sehwon Min.

Jewish Film Fest at the Castro

This summer's 28th edition of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival will be the largest ever, with 70 films from 19 countries being shown on screens at the Castro Theater and four other venues around the Bay Area.

The screenings kick off with films at the Castro July 24 to 31, followed by films through Aug. 11 at San Francisco's Jewish Community Center, Berkeley Repertory Theatre in Berkeley, CineArts in Palo Alto, and the Smith Rafael Film Center in San Rafael.

The films, which include several by Bay Area filmmakers, range from comedy and drama, to serious discussions of the Holocaust and Israeli-Palestinian relations. The movies also look at issues affecting gays and women.

One movie getting early buzz is *Arab Labor*, about a controversial new show on Israeli television that takes comedy to new heights. In one vignette, an Israeli-Arab who wants a "less Arab car," trades in his beat-up Subaru for a Land Rover, and is amazed to find himself now waved through Israeli checkpoints. *Arab Labor* screens at the Castro Wednesday, July 30, at 9:30 p.m.

Bay Area contributions include *Four Questions for a Rabbi*, and *My Olympic Summer*. *Four Questions*, begun by Stacey Ross and completed after her death by Jay Rosenblatt, explores profound issues, including such questions as, What is the Jewish soul? In *Olympic Summer*, San Francisco-based director Daniel Robin uses home movies from the '70s to examine his parents' relationship and Robin's failed marriage.

More than 30,000 are expected to attend the screenings. Prices for most shows are \$11 for the general public and \$9 for festival members. Movie dates, locations, and a capsule description of each film can be found at www.sffiff.org.

This month's Short Takes were written by Heather World and Corrie M. Anders.



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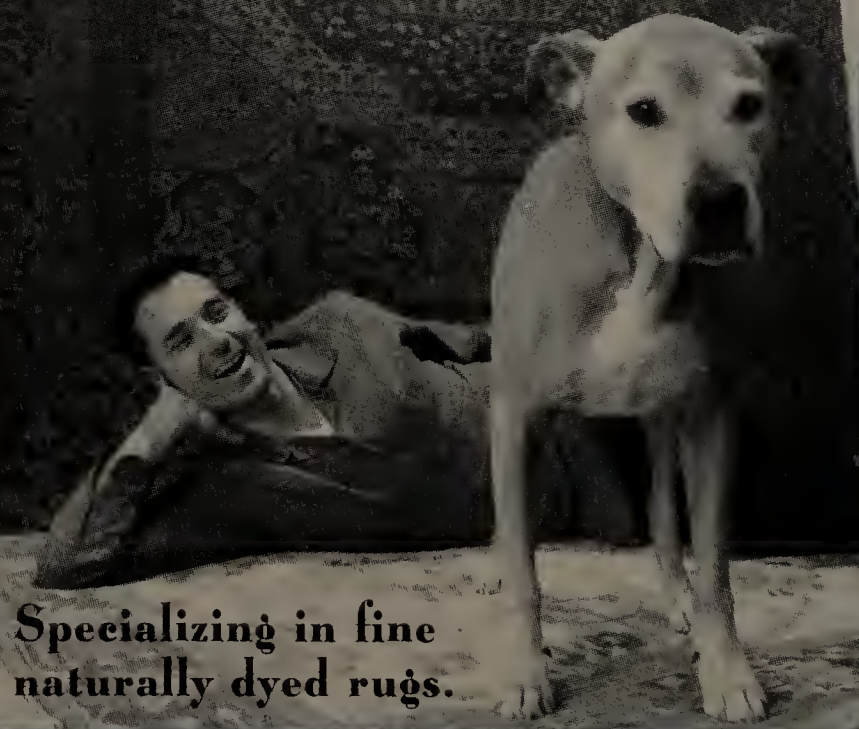
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Noe Valley Couples Celebrate June Weddings

James Harker—Paul Festa

James Harker, 31, couldn't stop smiling as he waited in line with equally cheerful partner Paul Festa, 38. "My entire family is here from Illinois," Harker said. Festa had the warm support of his mother, Linda Plack, executive vice president of the teachers' union in San Francisco.

Harker, a U.C. Berkeley graduate student in rhetoric, and Festa, a documentary filmmaker and novelist, have been partners for five years. Their lives together started after Harker read some of Festa's essays and contacted the author to discuss them.

This was the third same-sex ceremony for the 22nd Street couple, svelte in their dark dress suits. In June 2003, then Supervisor Gavin Newsom married the couple in a domestic partnership ceremony at City Hall, and then San Francisco Assessor Mabel Teng "married" them in the City Hall rotunda in February 2004.

Newsom performed the latest rituals

in his office on June 17, 2008, the first full day that gay marriages were permitted in California.

"It was really thrilling," said Festa. "This is a personal event and it's also a political and historical event. To have our union recognized, not just by the City of San Francisco and State of California, but also by the man who had the courage and vision to push this civil rights issue to the forefront and make this happen was really special—and we really felt that."

The couple celebrated later in the evening with a "special party" at the home of Festa's mom. The honeymoon is on hold while Harker digs into his dissertation and Festa works on his novel.

Mark Hodgson—Sydney Levy

Mark Hodgson, 42, and Sydney Levy, 44, picked up their marriage license June 17, but plan to wait for a very special moment to tie the knot on their 18-year relationship.



Twenty-second Street newlyweds James Harker (left) and Paul Festa with their mothers, Sue Harker and Linda Plack.

Photo by Corrie M. Anders

"We're going to get married on 08-08-08 at eight minutes past eight" in the evening, said Levy. The couple specifically chose that time because the number eight signifies good luck and prosperity in some cultures.

Hodgson is a pastry and baking chef-instructor at City College of San Francisco. Levy is an executive at the Jewish Voice for Peace. The two met in New York in 1990 through mutual friends, and have lived on Clipper Street since 1994.

The couple say they have gotten "married a lot of times." In 1990, they were number 70 to receive domestic partnership papers in New York and signed domestic partnership papers in San Francisco on 01-01-01 at one minute past 1 p.m. They were married at City Hall in February 2004, only to see that union invalidated when the state Supreme Court nullified same-sex marriage.

"We don't need those pieces of paper. Our relationship is solid," said Levy, who opted for a casual shirt and pants for the trip to City Hall. "But we do need legal recognition of our relationship and protection of our rights."

"Finally, we are getting one that is real," Levy said. "We'll know that it is legal."

Melisa Kaye—Lisa Woodward

During their 15 years together, Melisa Kaye and Lisa Woodward have affixed their signatures to two domestic partners and two marriage documents in two different states. On a mezzanine overlooking the stately City Hall rotunda, the couple said their vows on June 17 for the fifth time.

"I pretty firmly believe that we're living history in a very profound way," said Kaye. "I've been 'out' for many, many years, but I never thought that I would see the day when couples could get married or be on TV and portrayed in a positive light."

Kaye, 45, a pediatric occupational therapist, wore a black, angle-length dress, adorned with a corsage of roses, lilacs, and baby's breath. A similar bouquet was pinned to the lapel of a stylish dark suit worn by Woodward, 44, a sound engineer.

The Eureka Street residents met through mutual friends. Winning legal acceptance has been a roller-coaster ride. Their scheduled appointment in 2004 to get married in San Francisco was thwarted by the state Supreme Court. Undeterred, they headed off to Oregon, where same-sex marriages were being performed.

"We got a flight to Portland at five in



Mark Hodgson and Sydney Levy of Clipper Street.

Photo by Corrie M. Anders

*Congratulations and
Best Wishes!*



Melisa Kaye and Lisa Woodward of Eureka Street.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

Gay Marriages Blessed at City Hall

By Corrie M. Anders and Sally Smith

the morning and stood in line for six hours," only to learn that the marriages were going to be suspended. A reprieve came after someone "came out and said they would marry whoever was in line. We were legally married in Oregon—and then it was annulled several months later."

At City Hall on June 17, the couple finally received the state's legal blessing.

"I feel like it gives much stronger legal grounds to be each other's next of kin in case one of us gets ill or has financial difficulty," said Kaye. "I firmly believe that marriage is a union of two people who are committed to each other and that gender is immaterial."

Paul Stevens–Ron Weaver

Paul Stevens, 49, and Ron Weaver, 50, got married at City Hall for the second time, on Tuesday, June 17, 2008—the first full day same-sex couples were allowed to tie the knot in California.

"We wanted to do it again on the first day. We did it on the first day four years ago," the couple said. They had been among the first to get married when Mayor Gavin Newsom started the gay wedding revolution in February 2004.

"I feel like an immigrant who just got his citizenship," said Weaver, clearly delighted the long wait was over. The couple, elegant in dark suits and silver and lavender ties, said they were surprised and touched when a little girl came up and handed them daisy bou-

quets. "It was so sweet," said Stevens.

The Fountain Street residents met 17 years ago at their workplace, Kaiser Permanente in Marin County. Stevens is a physician and radiologist, and Weaver a nuclear medicine technician. They discovered then that they both lived in San Francisco, within a short distance of each another. Like many other things, Noe Valley was a shared passion. "We love it there," Stevens said.

Tony Paredes–Michael Gerber

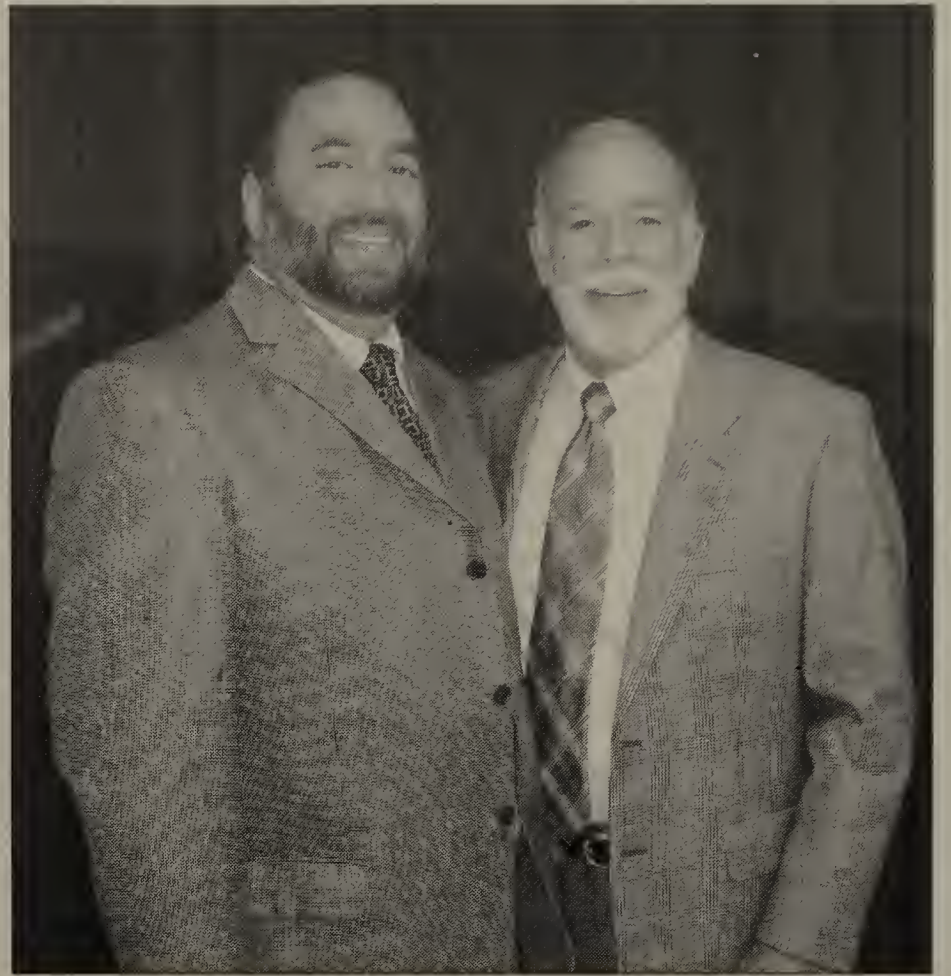
Four years ago, Tony Paredes and Michael Gerber got married "on the spur of the moment" in the wave of euphoria over San Francisco's sanctioning of same-sex marriages—only to have the state invalidate their union.

So getting hitched again wasn't a difficult decision for the Alvarado Street couple, after the state Supreme Court overturned the ban on gay marriage this spring.

"Let's do it again," said Paredes, 43, and Gerber, 62. Both sported full, neatly trimmed beards and wore business suits, as a marriage commissioner pronounced them spouses for life at City Hall June 17.

"It's historic," said Gerber. "It gives us the opportunity to say this is who we are and this is who we love and society is sanctioning it."

They have been together for 13 years. The couple met in a South of Market bar, "and it went from there," said Gerber. "Believe me, we were very cautious. We dated for quite a while before



Tony Paredes and Michael Gerber of Alvarado Street.

Photo by Corrie M. Anders



Richard Look and Curt Garman, former Duncan Street residents.

Photo by Corrie M. Anders



Paul Stevens and Ron Weaver of Fountain Street.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

we decided to live together."

Both men work in the field of engineering. Gerber is a recruiter of building engineers, while Paredes is an office manager for a firm that specializes in video and audio installations.

Richard Look–Curt Garman

Richard Look and Curt Garman first noticed each other at the top of Duncan Street near Diamond Heights Boulevard while Look was walking his black Labrador retriever, Max. "His dog introduced us," laughed Garman.

That was more than 15 years ago. The attraction was unmistakable, but the two men had recently ended long-term relationships with others. "Both of us were careful," said Look. "I'd almost say gun-shy."

Eventually, they eased into domestic partnership on Duncan Street. In June, after Look proposed to Garman, the couple exchanged marriage vows at City Hall. Betty Peskin, their Noe Valley neighbor, performed the service amidst all the spectacle June 17.

"She did a beautiful job. She took the standard vows and changed them to fit us," said Long. "She just made me cry."

The marriage has meaning on many levels.

"The change means that we have [a life] like every married couple. It's another way we can show our love and commitment for each other," said Garman.

Garman, 48, is an administrative assistant for Liberty Mutual Life Insurance. Look, 55, is an information systems engineer in the San Francisco Health Department. They now live in Novato after a fire destroyed their Duncan Street home five years ago.

As for a honeymoon, the couple says they hope to get away for a quiet celebration—perhaps a long weekend on Washington State's Olympic Peninsula.



July 1 & 15: The Noe Valley Library sponsors preschool STORY TIME at 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.sjpl.org.

July 1 & Aug. 5: The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group moderated by Dr. Betty Carnatck. 7:30-9 pm. 243 Alabama. 554-3050.

July 1-26: ArtZone 461 Gallery continues its GRAND OPENING show and benefit for Visual Aid. Tues.-Sat., noon-6 pm. 461 Valencia. 441-8680; info@artzone461.com.

July 1-Aug. 5: The Freedom Socialist Party sponsors a READING GROUP to discuss Julian Nava's *Viva La Raza*. 7-8:30 pm. Cafetazo Café, 3087 16th. 864-1278.

July 1-Aug. 6: ART EXHIBIT "INsects INsectos" features the work of artists from Creativity Explored. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm (Thurs. until 7 pm); Sat., 1-6 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; www.creativityexplored.org.

July 1-Aug. 26: "Tot/Parent Spanish," sponsored by LANGO, begins at 10 am on Tuesdays. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; www.langokids.com.

July 1-Aug. 26: Chris Sequeira gives a beginners TAI CHI class at 6 pm on Tuesdays. 1021 Sanchez. Register: 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

July 1-Aug. 26: The Kadampa Buddhist Temple holds MEDITATION on Tuesdays. 7-8:30 pm. 3324 17th. 503-1187.

July 1-Aug. 29: Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-1030.

July 1-Aug. 31: OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Monday through Saturday, 7 to 8 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

July 1-Sept. 26: The Pacific Center for BOOK ARTS hosts its annual member exhibit of handmade volumes. Reception July 1, 6:30-8 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. www.sjfb.org.

July 2-6: Noe Valley artist BEN DOMINGUEZ shows paintings at the Marin County Fair, San Rafael. 647-6050.

July 3-20: Theatre Rhinoceros presents *Ishi: The Last of the Yahi*, "an epic PLAY of San Francisco history." Wed.-Sat., 8 pm.; Sun., 3 pm. Previews July 3-11. 2926 16th. 861-5079; www.TheRhino.org.

July 4-Aug. 29: CLARE tells entrancing tales for children at Cover to Cover's Friday-morning story hour, 10:30 am. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

July 4-Aug. 29: Bird & Beckett bookstore hosts a CHILDREN'S STORY TIME Friday mornings at 11 am. 653 Chenery. 586-3733.

July 4-Aug. 29: BINGO at St. Paul's is on Friday nights at 7 pm (doors open 5 pm). 221 Valley. 648-7538.

July 5: The Swinging GUITARS of Tom Huber and Misisipi Mike (8:30 am) and Failure to Disperse (10:30 am) play the Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

July 5: CounterPulse and Shaping San Francisco sponsor a Labor History TOUR of SF by bicycle. Noon-4 pm. Meet at 1310 Mission. Reservations: 608-9035; www.shapingsf.org.

July 5 & Aug. 2: BERNAL BUBBLES hosts a topical "Soapbox Lecture" on the first Saturday of the month. 10-10:30 pm. 397 Cortland. 821-9530; www.bernalbubbles.com.

July 6: Rocket DOG RESCUE shows off dogs who need homes. Noon-4 pm. Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th. 642-4786.

July 6: Animal Care and Control offers a free CAT MICROCHIPPING clinic for the pets of SF residents. 1-4 pm. 1200 15th. 554-6364.

July 7-11, 14-28 & 21-25: Summer DAY CAMP at Terra Mia features a week of creativity for ages 5 to 13. 10 am-2 pm. 1314 Castro. Register at 281-9768; for info, 642-9911.

July 9: Historian Richard Schwartz presents a slide lecture based on his new book, *Eccentrics, Heroes, and Cuthroats of Old BERKELEY*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

July 11: The Porchlight sixth anniversary show features BETH LISICK and Arline Klatte. 8 pm. Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market. 861-5016; www.cafednmord.com.

July 11: The Noe Valley Music Series' annual BASTILLE DAY CONCERT features the Baguette Quartet performing Parisian café music from 1920-50s. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

July 11 & 12: Watch avant-garde musical THEATER at performances of *Viva Cuba*, written and choreographed by David Jones. 8 pm. Mission Cultural Center 2868 Mission. 821-1155; www.missionculturalcenter.org.

July 11-13: The 13th annual SILENT FILM Festival features Harold Lloyd's *The Kid Brother* and Marion Davies' *The Patsy*, among 10 other films with live music accompaniment. Castro Theatre, 429 Castro. 1-800-838-3006; www.silentfilm.org.

July 12: The Noe Valley Farmers' Market hosts MUSIC by the Faux Brummels (8:30 am) and Swing Serenade (10:30 am). 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

July 12: Different Spokes GLBT cycling club holds its monthly JERSEY RIDE, starting at Peet's Coffee, 2257 Market at 16th, at 8:30 am. Jerseys optional. Rides@dssf.org.

July 12: Forbeadin offers an intensive BEGINNING JEWELRY techniques class from 10 am to 12:30 pm. 1195 Church. 641-1414; www.forbeadin.com.

July 12: Pam Peirce, author of *Golden Gate Gardening* and *Wildly Successful Plants*, discusses the how-to's of veggie and herb GARDENING at the 30th Street Senior Center. 10 am. 225 30th. www.goldengategarden.typepad.com.

July 12: Poet Diane di Prima reads from her *Recollections of My Life as a Woman: The New York Years*, and her in-progress second memoir. 4 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; www.birdbeckett.com.

July 12-Aug. 16: Dance Mission Theater offers a BRAZILIAN DANCE workshop, with Isaura Oliveira. Sat., noon-2 pm. 3316 24th. 273-4633.

July 13: Preacher and transgender activist Dr. Dawne Woodie speaks at the monthly meeting of PFLAG Support Group. 2-4 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 921-8850; www.pflagsf.org.

July 13: MC ZULU does dancehall digital stepping at the Elbo Room. 9 pm-2 am. 647 Valencia. 552-7788. www.dubmissionsf.com.

July 14-Aug. 10: Joel Hoyer and Anna Efanova exhibit their work at the Rozanoff ART GALLERY. Reception July 18, 6-9 pm. 355 29th. 916-0899; rozanoffart.com.

July 15: Leonard Pitt, author of *Walks in Lost Paris*, discusses the city portrayed in turn of the century postcards in "PARIS A La Carte." 6 pm. Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post. 474-7787; www.milibrary.org.

July 15: Jessica Fields discusses her book, *Risky Lessons: SEX EDUCATION and Social Inequality*. 7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

July 15: Nobody from Ipanema performs live music at the ELBO ROOM. 10 pm. 647 Valencia. 552-7788; www.elbo.com.

July 16: Noe Valley Democratic Club hosts a panel discussion on national HEALTH CARE, with representatives from both the Obama and McCain campaigns. 7:30 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 641-5838.

July 16: Intersection for the Arts hosts a CHAPBOOK release party for the fifth annual Intergenerational Writers Lab. 7:30 pm. 446 Valencia. 626-2787; www.theintersection.org.

July 16-Aug. 2: Sehwon Min exhibits watercolor and gouache PAINTINGS at Little Tree Gallery. Wed.-Sat., noon-6 pm. 3412 22nd. 643-4929.M

July 16-Aug. 10: Project Artaud hosts a multimedia group ART EXHIBIT, "Hum." Reception July 20, 6-9 pm; Wed.-Sat., 2-5 pm. 450 Florida. 863-9834; www.artand.org/theater.

July 17: Deadline for submitting CARTOONS or PHOTOS for a juried show Aug. 15 to Sept. 12 at Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts. Entry fee \$15. 2868 Mission. 821-1155; www.missionculturalcenter.org.

July 17: POET Robin Messing reads from her new book, *Serpent in the Garden of Dreams*; open mic follows. 7 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733.

July 17-26: BRIAN COPELAND performs *Not a Genuine Black Man* at the Marsh. Thurs. & Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 5 pm. 1062 Valencia. 826-5750; www.themarsh.org.

July 19: Jude (8:30 am) and They Call Me Lucky (10:30 am) perform at the Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

July 19: Learn URBAN COMPOSTING at the Garden for the Environment. 10 am-noon. Lawton & 7th Ave. 731-5627.

July 19: "Sun, Wind & Water Day" at the Randall Museum features hands-on activities and experiments for all ages. 10 am-2 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org.

July 19: The Women of St. Paul's host a benefit PASTA DINNER, with a no-host bar. 5:30-10 pm. Parish Hall, 221 Valley. For reservations, 648-7538.

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CALENDAR

July 19 & Aug. 16: PROGRESSIVE READINGS includes appearances by Ethan Canin, Tara Jepsen, and Po Bronson. 7 pm. The Makeout Room, 3225 22nd. 647-2888; www.progressivereadingsseries.org.

July 20: AIDS WALK is a 6.2 mile walkathon benefiting HIV programs in the Bay Area. 8:30 am. Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park. Register at 615-9255; www.aidswalk.net.

July 20: Painter Ellen Into exhibits hosts an OPEN STUDIO, with guest artists, and reception. 1-5 pm. 4189 24th. 550-8864.

July 20: TANGO No. 9 performs at Bird & Beckett. 4:30 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; www.birdbeckett.com.

July 20: Yaelisa and her Caminos Flamencos perform "CAFÉ FLAMENCO," presented by ODC Theater. 7-9 pm. Project Artaud Theater, 450 Florida. 863-9834; www.odctheater.org.

July 21: Dr. Paul Blanc from UCSF discusses "The TOXICOLOGY of Everyday Products." 7-9 pm. Atlas Café, 3049 20th. 648-1047; www.sciencecafesf.com.

July 22: FILMS for preschoolers include *Harold's Fairy Tale*, *Knuffle Bunny*, and *Modeline*. 10:15 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.sfpl.org.

July 23: Gerald Halsom discusses *Workin' Man Blues: COUNTRY MUSIC in California*. 7 pm. Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

July 23-26: SF Bicycle Coalition sponsors the 8th annual BICYCLE Film Festival, at Victoria Theater, 16th & Mission, and various other locations. sfbike.org/bff.

July 24: Michelle Tea hosts the Eureka Valley Library's RADAR SALON, featuring Robert Mailer Anderson and Daniel Handler, aka Lemony Snicket. 7-8:30 pm. Three Dollar Bill Café, 1800 Market. 557-4353; www.sfpl.org.

July 24-26: The SF International POETRY FESTIVAL begins with a 6 pm Thursday party in Balmy Alley followed by a Lit Crawl, and continues thru Saturday with events at the Mission Cultural Center/Mission Library. 626-7500; www.friendssfpl.org; www.litquake.org.

July 24-31: The SF JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL screens films at the Castro Theater. 429 Castro. For a schedule: www.sffff.org.

July 25 & Aug. 29: PARENTS' NIGHT OUT on the last Friday of the month at Bethany United Methodist Church offers games, movies, naps, and refreshments for children, from 5 to 10 pm. 1268 Sanchez. 647-8397.

July 26: Damond Moodie (8:30 am) and Dennis Campagna & Friends (10:30 am) play the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332.

July 26: The Older Women's League (OWL) holds its monthly meeting. 10 am. 870 Market, room 1185. 989-4422; www.owlsf.org.

July 26-29: Victoria Doggett performs a solo MONOLOGUE about her experiences exhibiting at "Fancy Food Shows" in *Kiss My Booth*. 8 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750; www.themarsh.org.

July 27: The SPCA's CANINE CONFORMATION clicker seminar features a talk by Vicki Ronchette, author of *Positive Training for Show Dogs*. 10 am-5:30 pm. 2500 16th. 522-3509; www.sfspco.org/closes.

July 27: FILM NIGHT in the Park features *The Breakfast Club (1985)* at dusk in Dolores Park. www.sfnf.org.

July 29: Bonnie Lockhart hosts a SING-ALONG for all ages. 10:15 & 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.sfpl.org.

July 29: The Knuckle Knockers Duo perform mountain music from APPALACHIA for all ages. 10:30 - 11:15 am. Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

July 30: Come play Guitar Hero, Dance Revolution, and more at GAME NIGHT at the Mission Library. 6 pm. 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

July 31 & Aug. 28: Peekaboottique's PARENTS PARTY offers wine, Orangina, and goldfish crackers. Last Thursday of the month. 5:30-7:30 pm. 1306 Castro. 641-6192.

Aug. 1: A documentary about Brian Singer's "1000 Journals Project" screens at the Roxie Film Center. 3117 16th. 863-1087; www.1000journals.com.

Aug. 1 & 2: SF Choral Society sings Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*. 8 pm. Davies Symphony Hall, Grove & Van Ness. Complimentary tickets to junior and senior high school students (e-mail kaklein@pocbell.net and give name and school). 392-4400; citybox-office.com.

Aug. 2: The Swinging GUITARS of Tom Huber and Misisipi Mike (8:30 am) and Devil's Slide (10:30 am) play the Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Aug. 2: The SUMMER GARDEN FAIR at Strybing Arboretum features representatives from various plant societies and science groups. 10 am-3 pm. Golden Gate Park. 661-1316; www.sfbotanicalgarden.org.

Aug. 3: Actors Susan Anton, Connie Champagne, and Lucy Lawless perform in a BENEFIT for five local AIDS organizations. 7:30 pm. Palace of Fine Arts. 931-0317; www.richmond-dermet.org.

Aug. 7: Craig Dawson presents a lecture, "MOUNT SUTRO: Uncovering Hidden Treasures." 7:30 pm. County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave at Lincoln. 661-1316; www.sfbotanicalgarden.org.

Aug. 7, 14, 21 & 28: A Thursday STROLLER WALK rolls out from Holey Bagel at 11 am. 3872 24th. www.noestrolls.com.

Aug. 9: Jude (8:30 am) and They Call Me Lucky (10:30 am) perform at the Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Aug. 9: The non-profit Fear of Flying Clinic offers a WORKSHOP at SF Airport for people dealing with aerophobia. 9 am-4:30 pm. 650-341-1595; fofc.com.

Aug. 9: HAWAIIAN GUITARISTS Led Kaapana and Mike Kaawa perform a concert at the Noe Valley Ministry. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

Aug. 9: FILM NIGHT in the Park features *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* at dusk in Union Square Park. www.sfnf.org.

Aug. 10: SFSound Series presents a sampling of NEW MUSIC from '60s tapes at ODC Dance Commons, 351 Shotwell. 8 pm. SFSound.org or info@newmusicboyoreo.org.

Aug. 13: Noe Valley Democratic Club hosts a panel discussion on HEALTH CARE, with representatives from both the Obama and McCain campaigns. 7:30 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 641-5838.

Aug. 14 & 26: Beacon COLLEGE FUNDING Solutions hosts two free seminars on ways to pay for higher education. 6:30-7:30 pm. Fort Mason building C. Reservations: 550-8040; info@beaconcollegefunding.com.

Aug. 15-17: 17-year-old composer Red Bennett premieres his FANTASY OPERA, *Whot They Seem*. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. 252-1750.

Aug. 16: The Noe Valley Farmers' Market hosts MUSIC by the Faux Brummels (8:30 am) and Dennis Campagna & Friends (10:30 am). 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Aug. 16-24: The Westwave DANCE FESTIVAL includes more than 45 local dance and digital media artists. Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center. For program info: 978-2787; www.dancersgroup.org.

Aug. 18: UC Berkeley's Dr. Ken Goldberg gives a talk, "Power to the People: ROBOTS and Representational Democracy." 7-9 pm. Atlas Café, 3049 20th. 648-1047; www.sciencecafesf.com.

Aug. 23: Damond Moodie (8:30 am) and Dennis Campagna & Friends (10:30 am) play the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332.

Aug. 25: Marion Nestle reads from her new book, *PET FOOD Politics*. 6 pm. Noe Valley Pet Company. 1451 Church. 282-7385.

Aug. 26: PHOTOGRAPHER Dennis Anderson discusses his book *Hidden Treasures of the San Francisco Bay* at the SF History Association meeting. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; www.sanfranciscohistory.org.

Aug. 30: Misisipi Mike (8:30 am) and Anna Laube and Friends (10:30 am) play MUSIC at the Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Sept. 4: Free Scottish Country DANCE lessons and a party start at 8 pm. An introductory class follows on Sept. 11. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. www.sf-scottishdancers.org; 333-9372.

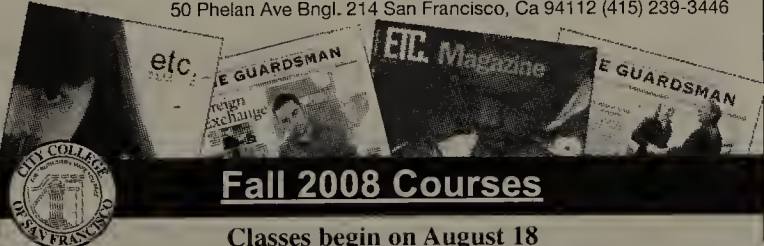
Remember September: Deadline Aug. 15

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the September issue, appearing in Noe Valley on Sept. 2. If you send us your calendar items by the **Aug. 15** deadline, we'll do our best to publish them. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, or e-mail calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Note: Events in Noe Valley get priority, but we'll consider items from all around the city.

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Fall 2008 Courses

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Jour 21: News Writing and Reporting					
3 units	M/W/F	10:00-11:00 a.m.	ARTX 185	Staff	
	R	6:30-9:30 p.m.	1800 Market St. 306	Rochmis	
Jour 22: Feature Writing					
3 units	T/R	11:00-12:30 p.m.	1125 Valencia St. 217	Staff	
	W	6:30-9:30 p.m.	1125 Valencia St. 218	Rochmis	
Jour 23: Electronic Copy Editing					
3 units	T	6:30-9:30 p.m.	1800 Market St. 306	Rochmis	
Jour 24: Newspaper Laboratory					
3 units	M/W/F	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Bngl. 214	Graham	
Jour 29: Magazine Editing & Production					
3 units	M	6:30-8:30 p.m.	1125 Valencia St. 218	Staff	
Jour 31: Internship Experience					
2 units	Exp	Hours Arr	Bngl. 214	Staff	
Jour 37: Intro to Photojournalism					
3 units	T/R	9:30-11:00 a.m.	1125 Valencia St. 217	Lifland	
	W	6:30-9:30 p.m.	1125 Valencia St. 217	Lifland	

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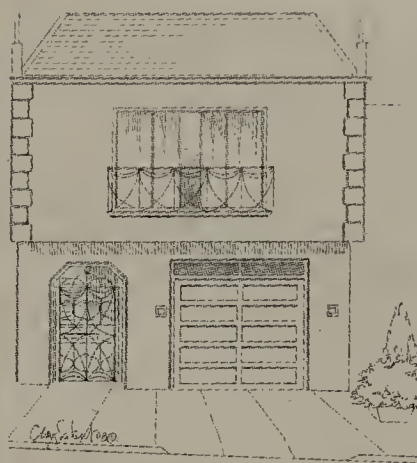
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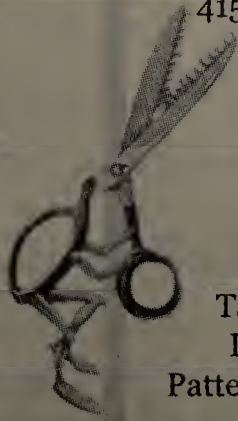
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It's a Jungle Out There

Dr. Daphne's Prescription for a Healthy Diet

By Doug Konecky

Dr. Daphne Miller orders oatmeal with strawberries and blueberries and asks the barista behind the counter at Café XO to mix her coffee half house-blend and half high-test. Her breakfast, eaten before starting another busy day at her clinic on Sanchez Street, looks delicious. It is indicative of her nutritional message: Eat healthy, but enjoy what you're eating.

According to Miller, a 1993 graduate of Harvard Medical School, a physician in private practice since 2000, and now the author of her first book, *The Jungle Effect* (HarperCollins, 2008), there are four common features of successful diets around the world ("diet" as in the way people eat, not "diet" as in the way people try to lose weight). They are: consuming local grains, using spices, eating fermented foods (such as yogurt), and—get this—communal eating, actually sharing meals together. Miller says people who do these things live longer and stay healthier, no matter which part of the globe they inhabit.

"Look at how long it's taking us to drink our coffee," she says, "because we're talking, listening, using our hands to communicate. It's relaxing. It's good for the body." She's right. My cup is still practically full. "Most of my patients know the right thing to do," says Miller, who shares her family practice with Avril Swan, M.D. "I run into them at the farmers' market or at Whole Foods. Where they go wrong is they pick up 'healthy' convenience food and then eat it in the car on the way to driving their child to soccer practice. Then they wonder why Johnny won't eat his vegetables."

Eighty percent of Miller's patients are from Noe Valley and surrounding areas, she says. And of that group, many are her neighbors. Miller and architect husband Ross Levy have lived in Noe Valley for 13 years. They have two children, Arlen, 13, and Emet, 9.

The one health risk factor "Dr. Daphne," as she's known, sees over and over again is stress. "My patients are working very hard just to survive," says Miller, 42. "And yet they also know that slowing down and enjoying their food is synonymous with healthy living." In other words, stop and smell the oatmeal. Miller quotes a kidney specialist at San Francisco General Hospital who told her during her residency there: "Once people get end-stage kidney disease, they discover they have plenty of time for dialysis."



Sanchez Street doctor Daphne Miller traveled around the world to gather healthy recipes and behaviors for her book *The Jungle Effect*, published this spring. Photo by Doug Konecky

In her book, subtitled "A Doctor Discovers the Healthiest Diets from Around the World—Why They Work and How to Bring Them Home," Miller chronicles how healthy people eat in locales as disparate as Greece, Japan, Mexico, and Iceland. The traditional diets in these places may include more or less meat, low or high fat, or heavy or light carbs. What they all have in common, however, is the consumption of few if any processed foods, processed oils (olive oil works great, corn oil not so great), or foods with chemical additives.

Miller traveled for three years collecting information for the book. "It's a travel adventure as well as a nutrition book," she says, "though I do give lots of simple recipes." (See her Crete omelet recipe at right.) She says the term "jungle effect" was inspired by a patient of hers who kept feeling better every time she returned to her village in the jungles of Brazil. "It refers to the idea that we can improve our health by reconnecting to ancestral ways of eating, eating traditions that have been refined for hundreds to thousands of years."

Miller, who was born in Israel, also keeps a small container of lard by her

stove and uses a little of that from time to time. Lard? Healthy? "It all depends on where it comes from," she says. "I believe it's important to know what my meat eats. Meat has a strong taste. My family likes it. We just don't overdo it."

(Of course...those veal chops my own family ate last night probably contained more meat than a week's meals at Daphne Miller's house. But there were garlic, rosemary, and raspberries from the garden, olive oil and shiraz from Mendocino, and lettuce and strawberries from, well, Watsonville. Not so bad.)

Yes, moderation is another theme. Still, Miller's most resonant statement is the one about joy, and sharing food with fam-

ily and friends. "The idea of food is a glue within the traditional community," she says. "These traditional ways of eating have survived for thousands of years because they work." ■

Dr. Daphne Miller's Jungle Effect is available to chew on at Cover to Cover Booksellers on Castro Street.

Horta Omelet or Scramble From Crete

Dr. Daphne Miller, author of *The Jungle Effect* (HarperCollins, 2008)



This is a breakfast that can easily double as a lunch or dinner. The secret to making a delicious omelet is to have high quality free-range eggs. Squeezing fresh lemon

over your omelet enhances the flavor and increases your absorption of the nutrients in the greens. I often serve this dish with fresh tomato slices and whole grain toast.

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 cups chopped fresh greens (such as purslane, kale, Swiss chard, spinach, carrot greens, beet greens, or a mix—remove center woody stems before cooking)
- 2 tablespoons crumbled feta or other slightly salty sheep or goat cheese
- 3 to 4 eggs, lightly beaten
- 3 tablespoons chopped Kalamata olives (optional)
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges (optional)

Heat olive oil over medium heat, add garlic, and stir until soft but not too brown. Add greens and stir until soft.

Evenly distribute your greens on the bottom of the skillet and then sprinkle with the feta. Pour eggs over the top and cook until eggs are just as you like them. (You can cover with a lid to hasten the cooking time.)

Top with olives and sprinkle with a tiny bit of salt. Serve with lemon wedges.

Serves 2.

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Pick up the phone. Call me. It's at least worth a conversation. Let's discuss your objectives and devise a strategy that will work for you. I've been in the business for 19 years. I've seen cycles come and go. And I know Noe Valley real estate. Call me today!



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STORE TREK

By Lorraine Sanders

Store Trek is a regular feature of the *Noe Valley Voice*, profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we visit a new destination for custom bicycles, fittings, and repairs, and a hair salon specializing in classic cuts and Japanese hair-straightening.

BESPOKE CYCLES

4100 24th Street

415-642-5652

www.bespokecyclessf.com

Since May 15, a new Noe Valley shop has been spinning residents' wheels, both literally and figuratively. Opened by three cyclist friends in Vendima Vintage's former spot at the corner of 24th and Castro streets, Bespoke Cycles specializes in handmade bicycles from independent manufacturers.

"Our customer is a serious recreational cyclist, predominantly road and triathlon," explains Aaron Allen, who co-owns the shop with longtime friends and cyclists Ari Bronzstein and Stefan Paszke.

From the retail section to the fitting service, Bespoke puts the focus on customization. Those seeking new rides (\$2,800 and up) can custom-order individually built and handmade road, mountain, triathlon, cyclocross, and tandem bicycle frames from a small selection of carefully chosen manufacturers, including New York-based Serotta, Massachusetts-based Seven Cycles, and Guru, based in Montreal. Each manufacturer offers frames in materials ranging from carbon fiber to titanium, aluminum to steel. Customers may also specify size, paint color, frame shape, and other details to create a one-of-a-kind result.

"It's totally unique. You can have something that no one else has," says Allen.

The custom-built bicycles are also good solutions for riders with unusual body shapes or heights, injuries, or other special needs.

The emphasis on personal choice ex-

tends to the shop's gear section, which offers footbeds by eSoles and custom cycling shoes by Rocket 7, as well as apparel from Campagnolo, Assos, and Capolforma, and eyewear by Oakley.

But the shop doesn't just cater to people buying new bikes and accessories. In the center of the uncluttered store, a single stationary bicycle sits facing a flat-screen computer monitor that fit-specialist Bronzstein studies as a patron pedals.

"The person on the bike is wired with infrared sensors, so we get a graphic representation of the rider. It allows us to more accurately evaluate fit," he says, explaining the Retül motion-capturing system the store uses to collect data about a rider's natural positioning and movements.

Retül sessions (\$250) last two to two-and-a-half hours and include cleat positioning. Cleat positioning (\$50) and mobile fitting sessions are also available.

"Anybody that's ridden a bike and had a sore neck, sore back, sore ass, what have you, there's this expectation of discomfort. People think, 'Oh, it's bike-riding, it's supposed to hurt.' But really, there are ways to make bike-riding comfortable," Allen says.

At the back of the store space, lead mechanic Paszke manages in-house repairs on all types of bicycles. And if your ride is run-down or it hails from a competitor's shop—or even if it comes with a novice owner—not to worry, says



Bespoke co-owners Aaron Allen and Stefan Paszke (right) have room to ride in their new custom bike shop at 24th and Castro.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

Bronzstein. "It's a non-intimidating environment. There's going to be no attitude."

Bespoke is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

LISA'S BEAUTY SALON

1448 Church Street

415-282-5866

Formerly home to a medical office, and a nursery before that, the retail space at the corner of Church and Cesar Chavez streets has a new look—and it can give you one, too.

Once-covered windows now let light spill into a room with high ceilings, peach and orange-sherbet walls, and white chairs primed for the patrons of Lisa's Beauty Salon. The salon offers hair-cutting and styling services by owner Qunwei "Lisa" Wu, who has been cutting hair for 13 years in a variety of salons in Burlingame and San Francisco.

Wu prides herself on offering competitive prices to both new and existing customers. Cuts are \$55 to \$60, depending on hair length, and color starts at \$50, highlights at \$80.

"Everything's so expensive right now. [Here] you get good service, and I don't raise prices, and for new clients I always give 20 percent off the cut," says Wu, a Richmond District resident who opened the salon in February.

Other promotions for new customers include 25 percent off hair color and highlight services and 50 percent off deep conditioning treatments with any regular service.

In addition to standard haircuts and color, Wu offers eyebrow-waxing and updos for proms, weddings, and special events. She also specializes in Japanese hair-straightening, a technique that straightens hair permanently, though touchups are needed to maintain the look.



Qunwei Wu opened Lisa's Beauty Salon in February at the corner of Church and Cesar Chavez streets. Photo by Pamela Gerard

The salon uses the Liscio system.

"It's the best one on the market.... It makes [hair] shiny and smooth and it lasts forever. You need a touchup every six to eight months, but it depends on whether your hair grows fast or not," Wu says.

In the coming months, Wu plans to add a nail technician to perform manicures, pedicures, and foot massage. Available for sale at the store are brushes and tools for styling hair and hair-care products from Nigelle, Crede, and Goldwell.

Hours at Lisa's Beauty Salon are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.



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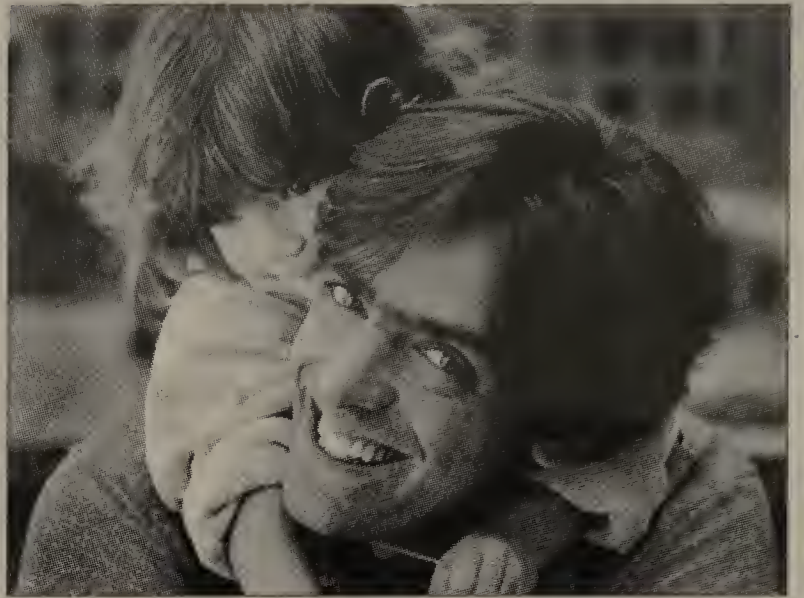
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Illustrated Reminiscences
by Florence Holub

Meanderings on Art, Victorians, and TV

Editor's Note: In this essay, first published in the June 1996 Voice, Florence Holub dabbles in the history of one of Noe Valley's most photogenic blocks.

On our Dolores Heights hill, a row of charming cottages between Castro and Noe on 21st Street never fails to capture my attention as I walk to and from the 24-Divisadero bus line. Because the cottages are situated close to the sidewalk, their delightfully patterned facades are easy to admire.



The first house sits about a hundred yards from Castro Street and is followed by a dozen carbon copies marching up the slope of 21st Street. Each two-story house is identical: from the peak of the roof to the ornate post at the sidewalk entry.

On the top half of the facade of each house, there are wood shingles applied three different ways. On the lower portion, narrow tongue-and-groove siding completes the design. In addition, a pair of lovely, feathery, carved wood decorations frames the small porch at the doorway. I have often wondered who the creator was, but it was only recently that John Barbey of the Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association kindly enlightened me.

His research has determined that in 1903 and 1904, Isaac Anderson built the 15 Queen Anne cottages from 3816 to 3856 21st Street. Mr. Anderson must have been as busy as the designs he created on the facades, for he is listed not only as the builder but as architect, carpenter, and general contractor!

Three of these abodes have been radically altered, but the remaining 12, all in mint condition at 92 years of age [in 1996], retain their original design. Each house, however, has a character of its own, shown through variations in color scheme and garden style. Some gardens are bricked, some are landscaped, and one is a jungle of lush greenery so thick you can barely see the house.

I have noticed over the years how each house takes on the unique personality of its inhabitants. You get a sense of this as you walk by, since the homes are located on the sunny side of the street and much of the household activity occurs in the small front garden area.

At one home you might see children playing. At another, the owner is out gardening. At yet another, the resident can be seen relaxing with a book or simply basking in the sunshine.

I once stopped and talked to a man who was out sunning his red-tailed hawk. That was a real treat. My son

Eric; a toddler at the time, was very interested in that bird!

These days one of the houses has achieved minor celebrity status. The one at number 3824 was chosen to be a setting for the television series *Nash Bridges*, starring Don Johnson and Cheech Marin. (The *Voice* did a story about this in our April 1996 edition.)

Maybe it was picked because it is the only one in the group that has a garage—and even it is a tight squeeze, judging from the scoop modeling on the sidewalk (to enable the car's crankcase to clear the lip of the driveway).

The first week of May, I was strolling by as usual when I stopped to watch part of the filming and do some sketches of the block. That reminded me of an incident from a while ago.

In the late '50s when our youngest son, Eric again, was attending play school at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, we regularly passed by the row of cottages as we walked to the center. One day, upon returning home, I hit on the idea of an art project for Eric inspired by the houses we had just observed.

Using cutouts from color charts and wallpaper books, we constructed a series of shapes like the little Victorians. I arranged the paper houses in a line for Eric to glue down on poster board while I prepared dinner, thinking that he could later add windows and with crayons create the gardens in front.

When I stopped cooking to inspect his progress, I was astonished at what he had done. Instead of being in a line, the houses were all up in the air, upside down, and pointing in every direction.

"What happened?" I asked.

Our unruffled 3-year-old explained tersely: "A tomic eksploion."

At his tender age, Eric was already acquainted with the destructive power of the A-bomb. He got this information, no doubt, from television.

This is only one example of the impression that the media can leave upon an uncluttered mind. I saw an even more illuminating example years later, when I observed a teenager who was a patient at Laguna Honda Hospital, in the same section where my brother Warde spent his last years.

This young man, whom I will call Hal, had been severely injured in an automobile accident as an infant, and was left paralyzed and unable to communicate. He had to be lifted between his bed and his wheelchair, for he was able only to move jerkily, like a baby. I had never seen him smile.

Because most of the other patients were elderly, Hal was given a private room where he watched television most of the day. Each afternoon as I passed his doorway, I could hear the sounds of the PBS children's program *Sesame Street*, teaching the kiddies their letters and numbers in an entertaining manner: "And now, brought to you by the Number 4—1, 2, 3, FOUR rabbits!..."

Once a week the nurses and aides made a point of bringing Hal out into the ward whenever a bingo game was being played, so he could be in the company of other wheelchair patients. He was always given a game board, and the nurses made the moves for him.

One day, however, no one was free to help Hal, so he sat there looking silently

at the board as the numbers were being called out. Then suddenly he began to jerk about, grunting and yelping to the best of his ability.

Gary, the caller, went over to see what Hal was acting up about, and was amazed but delighted when he saw that he had a bingo! Without a bit of supervision or schooling except for television, Hal had learned his numbers well enough to play bingo and win a prize—a chocolate chip cookie, which he ate with relish.

From that day on, Hal was given every opportunity to develop his skills—swimming, physical therapy, and excursions to the park, beach, or restaurants.

One day as Hal was being wheeled off with a group of patients about his own age, I got a glimpse of his face. He was smiling from ear to ear!

The events I have recounted suggest that television can be a wonderful tool for teaching, but, sadly, the medium is too often used merely to sell merchandise.

This brings my thoughts back to the television series *Nash Bridges*, which my man Leo and I are trying to watch on Friday nights, hoping to see our

neighborhood on film.

On the first episode of the show, the interior of the house on 21st Street came through nicely but far too rapidly. On the second episode, the shot of the now-gone farmhouse at the corner of 21st and Sanchez went by so quickly that we did not recognize it.

And when we thought we had identified the detectives' headquarters as the domed interior of the downtown Emporium, we learned that this setting was not filmed in San Francisco but in Oakland!

Although this exciting series is well done, and its amiable star Mr. Johnson speaks highly of our city, the show goes by much too fast for my taste. And the commercials are so long and drawn out, they almost put us to sleep.

If the action could be slowed down to match the commercials, we could appreciate not only the plot, but the shots of our neighborhood in the background.

Until then, I guess we will just have to settle for the real thing! ■



Florence Holub sketches Victorians and filmmakers on 21st Street while standing among equipment used in the TV show *Nash Bridges*.
1996 Photo by Leo Holub



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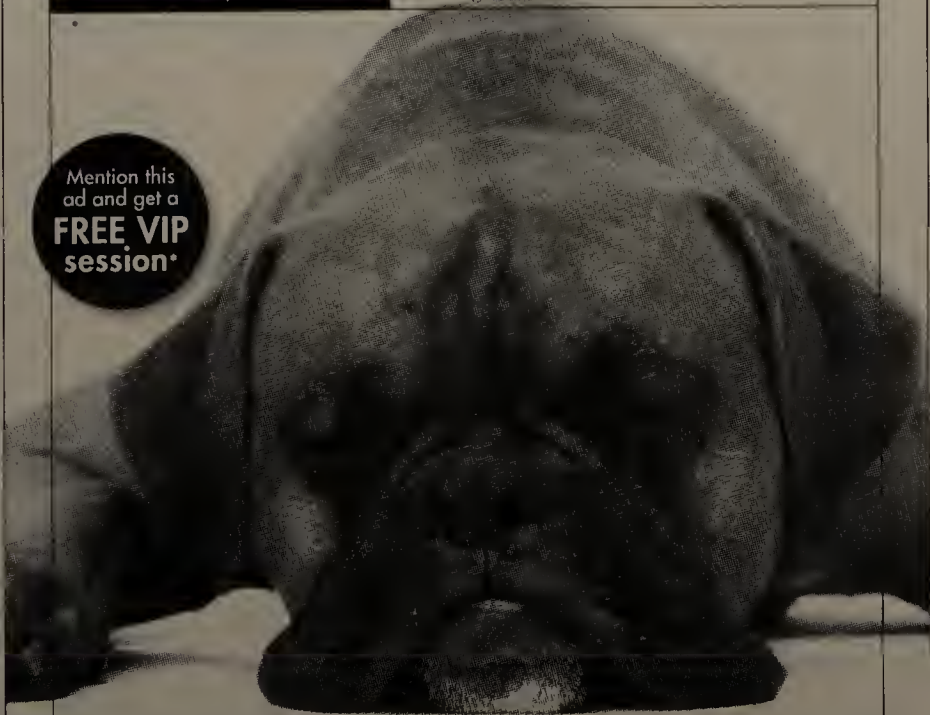
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Three for Noe Valley. The once and future local guys are from left to right six-year-old Felix Keeler, seven-year-old Philip Plat and Cosmo Maddux who is five years old. Keep an eye out for these guys.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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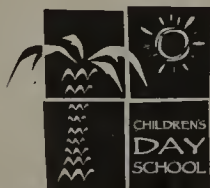
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Kids Help Pack Supplies for a School in Iraq

By Heather World

Who would want to miss recess to pack up a bunch of pencils and notebooks? It sounds like a dull proposition, but this spring a dozen fourth- and fifth-grade students at Alvarado School gathered to do just that.

After counting 1,740 pencils, 1,000 crayons, 163 notebooks, and 28 glue sticks, the students packed the supplies tightly into boxes for a 7,000-mile journey to a primary school in a war-torn neighborhood in central Baghdad, Iraq.

The mailing was part of a project started by an uncle of one of the Alvarado students—a soldier who recently completed his second tour in Iraq. Alvarado parent Angela Danison said her brother, a major in the U.S. Army, last year had asked his extended family to collect donations for the Iraqi school. Later, the family hit upon the idea of a drive at Al-

varado, said Danison, who has lived in Noe Valley for 11 years and sends her four children to its local schools.

"We're going to help [the Iraqi] kids learn, and we wanted them to have a good school year," Danison said. Like Alvarado (located on Douglass Street), the Baghdad school has about 500 students.

For three weeks in April, Alvarado students and their parents dropped off donations of all sizes. The result was a bit of a jumble, but Danison sorted the supplies, then made her plea to the students: Can you help with the packing during recess?

Teachers had been asked to send one or two willing kids per class, and the crew met at a table on the playground. Gradually some fell away, while others grew more enthusiastic.

"It was very chaotic," Danison said. "Some kids wanted to go to recess after five minutes and other kids kept coming back for more tasks even after everything was done."

Francesca Kocks, 10, said she didn't donate supplies directly so she wanted to help with the packing.

"I knew it would be helping other people because they really need the supplies to

help them learn," said the fourth-grader.

Danison's daughter Alana helped, too. The children divided up the notebooks and pencils to make each box even, then taped everything down.

"It just took 20 minutes!" said 10-year-old Alana, also in the fourth grade. "It was fun because we knew that what we were doing was going to help people."

From such happy chaos, Danison's brother hoped to build stability a half a world away. However, the secrecy that still surrounds helping the children in Iraq shows how difficult that task might be. Danison said her brother is on an al-Qaeda hit list for his work and therefore can't give his name. He and his special unit of 10 soldiers were embedded in the school's mixed Sunni/Shiite neighborhood for a year, getting to know the residents and helping them broker meetings and find a way to live together peacefully.

"The things that are working well under General Petraeus are what my brother was doing," Danison said, referring to the "hearts and minds" campaign that U.S. commander David Petraeus has tried to implement in the country.

The supplies—from soccer balls,

pumps, and toys donated by Danison's large family, to the pencils and paper donated by Alvarado students—had to be free of logos or other markings that would identify them as American. Even the boxes themselves, which had return addresses, had to be destroyed before the supplies were distributed in Iraq.

"There are still people who will target a school if they think it took help from Americans," Danison said. Her brother's goal, she said, was to help the kids without endangering them.


For the Iraqi care packages, Danison wanted to focus on a few basic supplies and make sure she sent enough for the students to have a whole year's worth.

"That way, we feel we've taken care of all the kids," she said. "Hopefully, next year will be calmer for them."

The 12 very full boxes, efficiently packed by the Alvarado kids, were mailed in late April.

"They are just filled to the brim—stuffed with stuff," Danison said on packing day. The whole whirlwind took less than half an hour of the children's time.

"And they still had their recess," Danison said. ■



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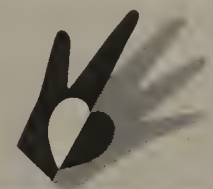
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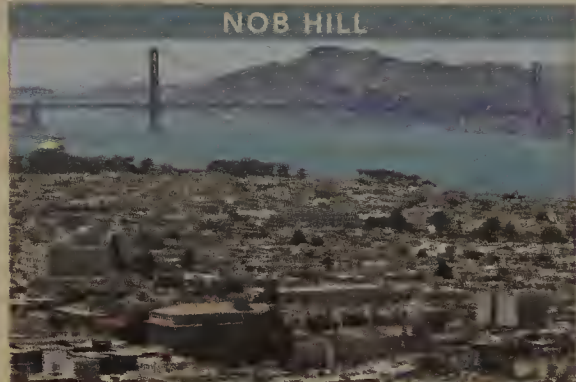
HAYES VALLEY



Fantastic trophy building just above the new Octavia Corridor & steps from Hayes Valley shops. Six 2 & 3BR units. 14.45GRM. Great units, great rental building.
Offered at \$2,895,000

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SW corner unit w/dramatic pano views from Twin Peaks to the GG Bridge. 1 of the largest floor plans. 2BR/2BA + den, spacious living/dining area, kit + brkfst area, 2 pkg, 24hr doormen & live-in mgmt.
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SOUTH BEACH



3BR/2.5BA, panoramic Southeastern bay views from the living/dining/kit & Northeast views of the city & bay from the BR's.
Offered at \$1,849,000

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BERNAL HEIGHTS



Two vacant flats, new kit w/concrete counters & new appliances, roof deck w/views. 1BR/1BA each, hdwd flrs, 1-car side-by-side pkg.
Offered at \$899,000

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SUNNYSIDE



2BR/1BA home with 2BR/1BA in-law unit downstairs. Remodeled bathroom upstairs, hdwd flrs in living & dining room, frplc, breakfast nook & large yard for entertaining.
Offered at \$759,000

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ASHBURY HEIGHTS



Charming 3 story Edwardian style house. Excellent location. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms plus playroom, living room w/fireplace, FDR, eat-in kitchen w/walk-out garden, two-car tandem garage.
Price Upon Request

Leslie de Bretteville 415-351-4624

CATHEDRAL HILL



14th flr North view Cathedral Hill. Mid-century chic, 3BR/2BA condo. Centrally located, family friendly w/easy street pkg for guests. Classic Eichler building.
Offered at \$749,000

Carole Issacs 415-608-1267

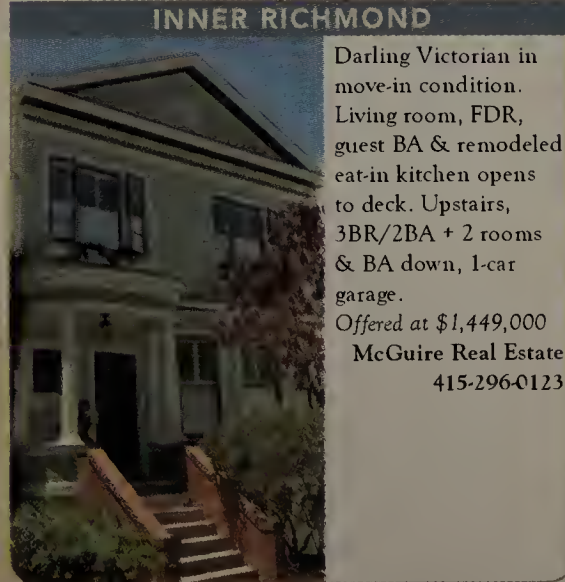
DOWNTOWN/NOB HILL



3BR/3.5BA, FLR, FDR, family room w/wet bar, remodeled kit, breakfast room, lg garage, 2 frpls & 2 walk-out decks. Views of the Transamerica Pyramid & Ritz-Carlton.

Offered at \$2,350,000
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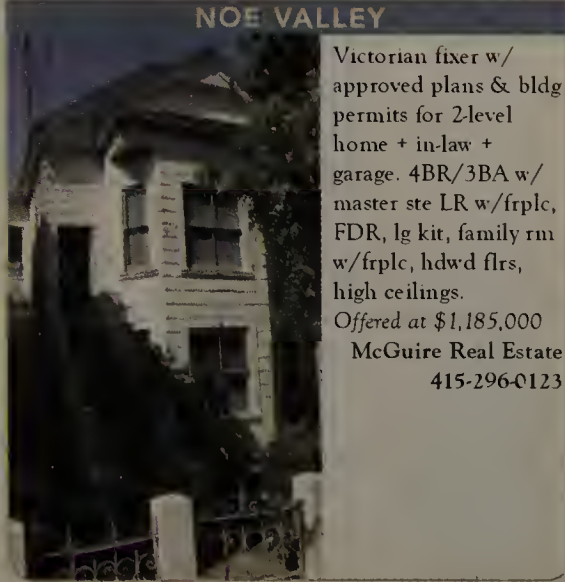
INNER RICHMOND



Darling Victorian in move-in condition. Living room, FDR, guest BA & remodeled eat-in kitchen opens to deck. Upstairs, 3BR/2BA + 2 rooms & BA down, 1-car garage.

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NOE VALLEY



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4226 25th Street



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Offered at \$2,950,000
Tal Klein (415) 321-4289

253 Collingwood Street



Quintessential Queen Anne with panoramic views; perfectly located near Eureka Valley shops, restaurants & MUNI. Graceful floor plan perfect for entertaining.

New Reduced Price: \$2,199,000
Ron Sebahar (415) 321-4295
Stephen Moore (415) 321-4218

725 Castro Street



Historically Significant Eastlake Stick Victorian built by Fernando Nelson.. 4BD/2.5 BA, elegant in scale and style. Gorgeous garden and parking. Don't miss this one!

Offered at \$1,895,000
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1414 Noe Street



View Unit. 2BD/1 BA condo. Views of downtown SF and Bay Bridge. Wonderfully updated. Remodeled kitchen, stainless steel appliances, open floor plan.

Offered at \$849,000
Donna Sullivan (415) 321-4380
Michelle Yelen (415) 321-3123

2773 McAllister Street



Classic Edwardian top floor Lone Mountain condo. Updated kitchen with new appliances, large living room with fireplace, formal dining room. 2BD/1BA.

Offered at \$799,000
Jamie Howell (415) 321-4399
Mat Howell (415) 321-4398

551 Ellsworth Street



Charming Bernal Heights Home. This darling 2BD/2BA home has an efficient floor plan and artful 1920's details. Wood floors. Decorative molding at ceiling. Formal dining room with skylight. Garage parking.

Offered at \$725,000
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Amazing Kitchen

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> www.GaryJohnsonHomes.com



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• Russian Hill
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2 BR/2.5 BA
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• Eureka Valley
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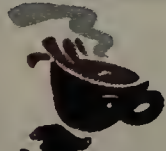


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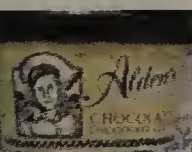
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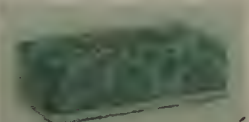


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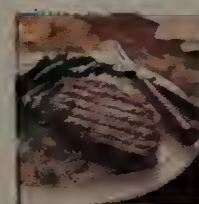
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EUREKA VALLEY VIEWS

This home features hardwood floors, a gas fireplace in the living room and a formal dining room with French doors opening to the garden. The kitchen has plentiful cabinets and counter space. All three bedrooms and two full baths are on the upper floor and there is also a half bath on the first level. The master suite overlooks Eureka Valley, as does the second bedroom with built-in bookshelves. The third bedroom looks out to the lush garden below.

\$1,495,000



Dan McLean
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TRI-LEVEL ELEGANCE

Situated in desirable Noe Valley, this three-level home was designed to create a sense of openness with natural light and modern systems throughout the home. The main level has one bedroom, a custom bath, gourmet kitchen, breakfast area, family room, formal dining room with fireplace, living room, deck and views. The upper level has a master suite, full custom bath, roof deck, second bedroom with custom bath and views. Lower level has master suite, custom bath, deck and large garden and office/media room. Two-car garage.

\$2,595,000



Fred Villanova
415.437.4515

Marilyn Picariello
415.437.4516

FredandMarilyn.com



CLASSIC AND CRISP

This charming top-floor flat is conveniently located in the heart of Noe Valley. Built in the early 1920s, it has classic period details such as high ceilings and hardwood floors. The remodeled kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances is a gourmet chef's dream. Go out onto the back deck and down a short flight of steps to the large, shared backyard where the landscaping and sunny southern exposure creates a wonderful environment for refuge or for entertaining friends.

\$949,000



Jim Laufenberg
415.621.4114

Lisa Camozzi
415.412.3120

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MORE BOOKS TO READ

Karol Barske and Carol Small's selection of books at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library this month will have you searching for bananas and Anthony Ant, and maybe even the *Medical Myths That Will Kill You*. To see if books are available, drop by the branch at 451 Jersey Street, search for a title at www.sfpl.org, or call Children's Librarian Carol Small or Branch Manager Alice McCloud at 355-5707.

Adult Fiction

■ *Unaccustomed Earth* is Jhumpa Lahiri's latest collection of short stories capturing the complex lives of Indian immigrant families and their American-bred offspring.

■ A stranger who calls himself the Mughal of Love appears at the court of Emperor Akbar and claims to be the child of a lost princess in *The Enchantress of Florence* by Salman Rushdie.

■ Diverse characters, including movie stars, junkies, and runaway lovers who have come to Los Angeles to fulfill their dreams, appear in the vignettes of James Frey's *Bright Shiny Morning*.

■ *The Zane Grey Frontier Trilogy* includes three classic western novels, *Betty Zane*, *The Spirit of the Border*, and *The Last Trail*.

■ In *Trauma*, Patrick McGrath describes a Manhattan psychiatrist whose outward calmness belies the personal demons with which he is grappling.

Adult Nonfiction

■ Nancy Snyderman, M.D., takes a stab at the *Medical Myths That Can Kill You* ("and the 101 truths that will save, extend, and improve your life"), especially those related to heart disease, stroke, and cancer.

■ In *Maps and Legends: Reading and Writing Along the Borderlands*, Michael Chabon defends the value of genre fiction, including mysteries, ghost stories, and comic books.

■ Erick Lyle, editor of the underground magazine *Scam*, describes organizing anti-war rallies and performing punk shows in the streets of San Francisco, in *On the Lower Frequencies: A Secret History of the City*.

■ Barbara Walters examines her long career as a TV journalist and the first female network news co-anchor, in *Audition*.

Children's Fiction

■ Author Bill Martin and illustrator Eric Carle's series of animal picture books started in 1967, with *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* and ends with the tale of a cub's quest to find his mama, in *Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What Do You See?* Ages 2 to 4.

■ The song, "The Ants Go Marching," and a Beatles concert are featured in Lorna and Graham Philpot's picture book of mazes and clues, *Find Anthony Ant*. Ages 3 to 5.

■ A young girl always brings her dog with her when she travels back and forth between her divorced parents' homes, in *Fred Stays with Me!* by Nancy Coffelt, with illustrations by Tricia Tusa. Ages 4 to 7.

■ When all the bananas in town are stolen, a private eye searches everywhere for clues, in Wong Herbert Yee's *Detective Small in the Amazing Banana Caper*. Ages 5 to 8.

■ Susan Katz tells the tale of a boy getting to know his pet guinea pig in *Oh, Theodore! Guinea Pig Poems*, with illustrations by Stacey Schuett. Ages 5 to 8.

■ A classroom hamster helps some students solve their problems in the latest in an award-winning series by Betty Birney, *Surprises According to Humphrey*. Ages 9 to 11.

Children's Nonfiction

■ Lynne Truss cleverly proves the importance of proper punctuation in *The Girl's Like Spaghetti: Why You Can't Manage Without Apostrophes!* Ages 7 to 9.

—Annotations by Karol Barske of the Voice staff

LIBRARY EVENTS

Tell Me a Story

■ Children 3 to 5 are invited to attend *preschool story time*, a read-aloud program from 11 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, July 15.

Madeline, Bunny Star at Movies

■ On Tuesday, July 22, at 10:15 and 11 a.m., the library shows *films for kids*, including *Harold's Fairy Tale*, *Madeline*, and *Knuffle Bunny*.

Music Fun with Bonnie Lockhart

■ Kids will enjoy two *sing-alongs* with musician Bonnie Lockhart at 10:15 and 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 29.

All events are held at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street near Castro Street. For information, call 355-5707.

BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch Library
451 Jersey St., 355-5707

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		10-9	1-9	10-6	1-6	10-6

Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library
1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616
(Closed for renovation)

Glen Park Branch Library
2825 Diamond St., 337-4740

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		10-6	12-8	1-7	1-6	1-6

Mission Branch Library
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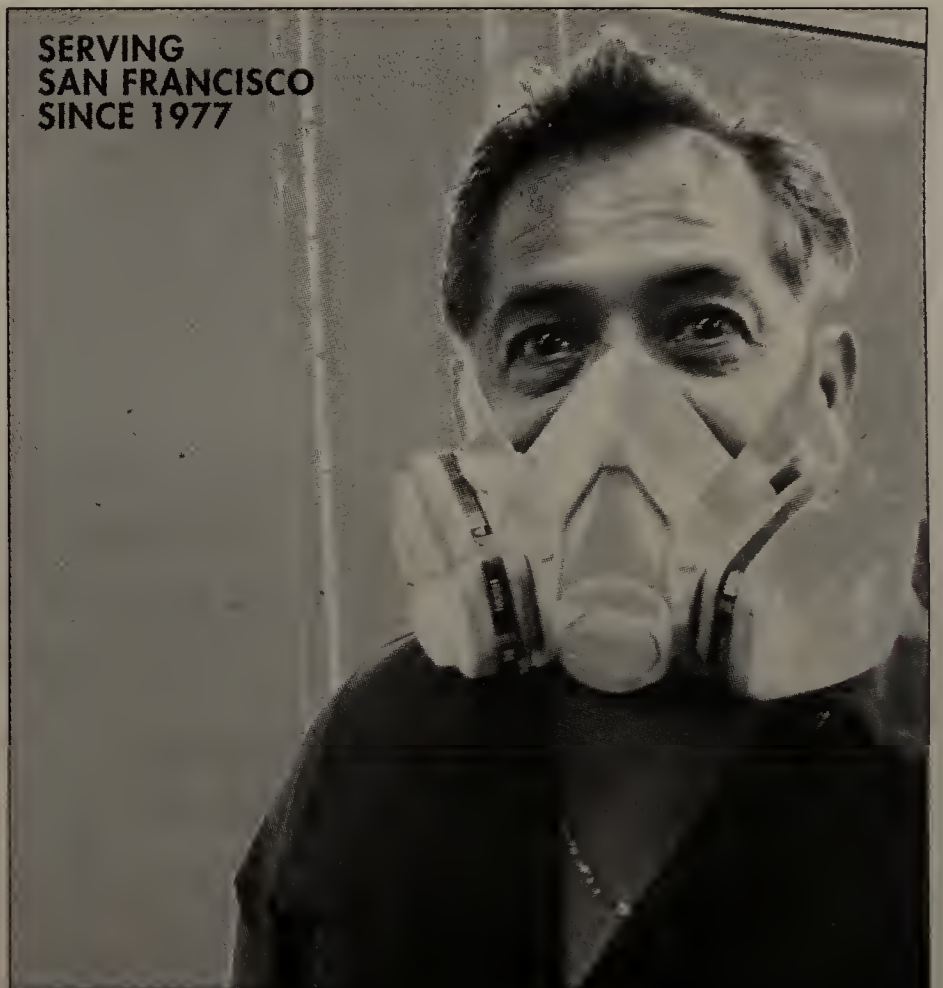
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94114. Better yet, e-mail
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number. Thanks.

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HOW TO PLACE A CLASS AD

It's easy. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **40¢ per word**, and send us a check or money order for the total amount. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as one word.) Then mail your ad copy and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15th of the month** before the month in which you'd like to advertise. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. (Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or email.)

10 for 10 discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the September 2008 issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of September. **The deadline for Class Ads is Aug. 15.** Note: The issue will be displayed for one month on our website: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you for your support.

CLASS ADS

Commercial Storefront for Lease at 3813 24th Street at Church Street. Noe Valley commercial space for retail, service, or office use. Large window storefront for great exposure. High foot traffic with Muni lines at the corner. Formerly "Noe Valley Natural Foods." 1,452 square feet plus garage and service entry. Rent at \$5,700 per month. Call Christine Lee at 415-863-8950.

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Self-Employed? Confused About Tax requirements? Six-hour class July 13 at Valencia and 23rd covers it all—what's deductible, what proof you need, keeping records, estimated tax payments, etc. Instructor is Jan Zobel, longtime tax professional and author of *Minding Her Own Business: The Self-Employed Woman's Guide to Taxes and Record-keeping*. Great for independent contractors, too. Pre-registration required. Class limited to 14 people. \$110. Details at JanZtax.com. Contact Jan@JanZtax.com or 415-821-1015.

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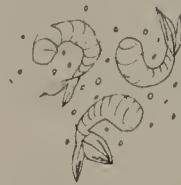
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Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you for your support.

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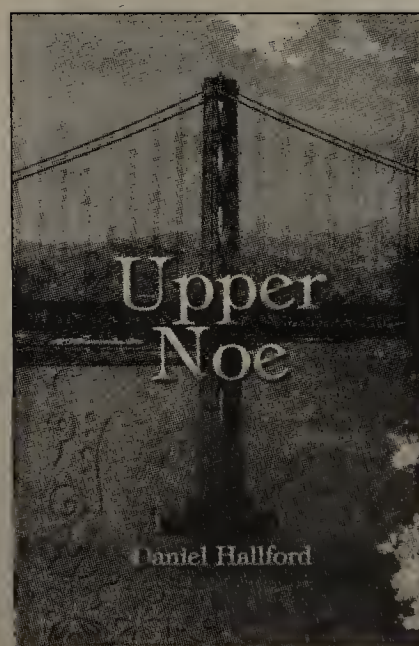
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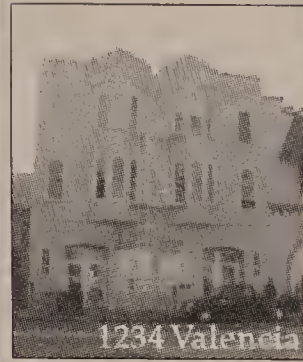
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Mazook's Summer Stroll

By The Abovementioned

SHOWING OFF: For Noe Valleyans preparing to welcome family and friends from back east, the Noe Valley Bureau of Tourism (NVBT) is offering a special Noe Walk through neighborhood hills.

The NVBT points out that visitors should be warned to bring warm clothes, because summer in San Francisco doesn't arrive until Sept. 21 (the autumnal equinox). Till then, the city is ensconced in the "Foggy Season." That means there will be early-morning and late-afternoon fog rolling over Twin Peaks, causing temperatures to drop from 60s and 70s during the day to 40s or 50s at night.

The NVBT suggests that you start this walking tour less than a mile from Noe Valley, near the corner of 16th and Dolores, at the oldest building in San Francisco, Mission Dolores, which is where the city was born 232 years ago, on June 29, 1776. It was there on the shores of Lake Dolores (*La Laguna de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores*) that a mass was celebrated by Father Francisco Palou. Palou was the chaplain for a small band of Spanish soldiers sent here by Capt. Juan Bautista de Anza to establish a military outpost (which they did, at the Presidio).

You can point out that members of the family of our namesake, José de Jesus Noe (1805-1862), are buried at Mission

Dolores. Noe was the last Mexican mayor of San Francisco, then called Yerba Buena, and in 1846 he was granted a huge swath of land called Rancho San Miguel, which stretched from what is now Eureka Valley to Glen Park and beyond.



GIVE ME LIBERTY: Walk south on Dolores past Mission High, San Francisco's oldest high school, founded in 1896 and rebuilt in 1927 after burning down in 1922. Turn into Dolores Park, first opened in 1905 and a year later turned into a refugee camp for almost 2,000 families (1906 ring a bell?).

Climb diagonally southwest across the park and go up to the corner of 20th and Church. There you will find the gold-painted fire hydrant which gushed enough water to save the houses north of 20th Street during the conflagration that followed the '06 earthquake. The marvelous story is told by Bill Cereske at <http://www.naalarm.com/bill/golden.htm>.

Turn back to 20th Street and head east two blocks to Valencia Street. Turn right (going south again) and walk one block to the foot of Liberty Street. Turn right and climb up the hill into a most amazing Victorian neighborhood, with rows of mostly Italianate houses built from 1867 to 1911. The area is now designated the Liberty Hill Historic District.

You might want to point out that the house at 159 Liberty was built in 1878 and owned for many years by Judge Daniel J. Murphy. According to the authors of *Here Today: San Francisco's Architectural Heritage*, the house was "a hotbed of the women's suffrage movement," as evidenced by an invitation to the house by Murphy "to meet Miss Susan B. Anthony, Reverend Anna Shaw, and others interested in the 'Woman's Suffrage' question, for a social chat."

As you climb Liberty Hill, make sure

to check out the row of houses from 533 to 579, which were built in the Eastlake Style and used as a set in the 1948 movie *I Remember Mama*, starring Irene Dunne.

As you climb Liberty, take the high road after you cross Church—here Liberty Street has been split in two. Turn left at Sanchez and wind up to 21st Street for a glorious view at the corner of Sanchez and 21st. The large Tudor mansion on the corner was built in 1929 by longtime San Francisco mayor (1912-32) James J. Rolph, allegedly as a "cottage" for his mistress (oh, those Roaring Twenties). "Sunny Jim," as he was called, became a U.S. senator in 1932 and died in '34. Then the house was purchased by an eye surgeon. The fountain in the front is rumored to have been a gift from Benito Mussolini for a successful eye surgery for a member of his family in the mid-1930s.

You might be interested to know that the whole top floor is one big living/rec room with a spectacular view of City Hall, and the kitchen and bedrooms are on the first level. When the house was on the market about 15 years ago, it had no kitchen, but one has since been added.

The Rolph house was sold to the Salaman family circa 1940, and it's still owned by the family trust.

You might see a "For Sale" sign in front. Yes, it is. Sotheby's Payton Stiewe is offering the property for "between \$3.5 and \$4 million." He says there will be open houses on the weekends "from mid-to-end July." Currently, the house has been vacated by the family and is being staged for the sale. It will be a rare opportunity to see what is truly a neighborhood jewel.



GO WEST on 21st Street all the way to Collingwood, look left and admire the Eureka Valley views, then turn right and go to the top of the hill (at 22nd) and see the spectacular views to the east, turn right

and go west down the 22nd Street steps to Diamond. Turn right at Diamond and walk to 24th Street. Turn left and stroll into Downtown Noe Valley for shopping, stroller sidestepping, and latte-sipping.

Mandatory stops are the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore for the past and Bespoke bike shop for the future. At the corner of Castro, remind your friends that where Subs Inc. is now Bud's Ice Cream once reigned as *the* Noe Valley destination in the 1960s and 70s.

Pause to contemplate Harry Aleo's window at Twin Peaks properties. Stop at Quoio jewelry store and go to the back garden for some tranquility. Visit our unique shops, like for example, Global Exchange, Just for Fun, and the Ark.

When you reach Church Street, it will be time for lunch (or maybe dinner), so either back up on 24th or go down Church, to find your favorite restaurant. When I reach that corner, I celebrate with a cinnamon twist from Happy Donuts. Bon appetit!

If this hike is too adventurous, or you'd like a different route, show up at 11 a.m. any summer Sunday morning at the gilded fireplug at 20th and Church. That is the starting point for a free walking tour of the Mission Dolores neighborhood offered by the group San Francisco City Guides. Check out all their tours at tours@sfcityguides.org.



VERY NOE VALLEY is the Independence Day event at Bethany Methodist Church at Sanchez and Clipper. Reverend Lauren Chaffee invites you to an "alternative" July 4th celebration, "Peace Is Patriotic," from 3 to 7 p.m. There will be live music, grilled food, a children's play area, chair massages, and most important, the unveiling of the architect's rendering of

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

renovations to be made to the church's buildings. Bethany just celebrated its 100th birthday on May 18. The birthday song was led, of course, by our city supervisor, Bevan Dufty.

"We are all very excited about this project," says Rev. Chaffee, "and expect to be moving out this coming January, with construction to start next April. We'll be coming back in about 18 months with a fantastic space."

According to Chaffee, the renovations will include earthquake retrofitting, preserving the sanctuary and its Mission-style architecture, a major makeover of the gym/social hall, excavation of a basement, expanding the number of classrooms/community meeting spaces with new bathrooms and showers, creating a courtyard in the middle of the building, and installing elevators to the second-story sanctuary.

"We will have a lot of room to help the non-profit community groups (e.g., 12-step programs) and also become an earthquake preparedness center and stock supplies in case of disaster," say Chaffee. "On the whole, we'll triple our space using green construction [techniques]."

☎ ☎ ☎

KUDOS GO OUT to two very destination-Noe Valley businesses: the venerable Lovejoy's Tea Room on Church and 24th Street's See Jane Run.

Lovejoy's was the setting of a May 23 celebration for the kids in Leonard Flynn School's "Reluctant Readers" book club. After a long school year, the reward for the students was high tea at Lovejoy's, with a full array of finger sandwiches,

scones, and fruit. Lovejoy's opened an hour early for the affair and donated the party, says thankful teacher Lisa Bishop.

After high tea, each of the kids was presented with a \$20 gift certificate from the Children's Book Project, and it was off to Modern Times bookstore to pick out whatever reading material they wanted.

See Jane Run, which opened its first store in Downtown Noe Valley in 2000 and now has two more locations (one in Alameda), sponsored a benefit run in Alameda on May 31. More than 1,500 women runners and walkers participated in the second annual women's 5K/half-marathon and kids run.

See Jane Run donated \$10,000 to the non-profit Girls Inc., which provides programs for girls 6 to 18 in science, math, and computer science. More than 80 people volunteered to help with the run, and participants raised \$2K for the benefit.

☎ ☎ ☎

JOBY'S RUN is likely to be the name of the new dog play area at the freshly renovated Upper Noe Valley Park on Sanchez Street. The dog run will be located on the 30th Street side of the park. Rec and Park memos confirm that the proposal has jumped through most of the hoops at City Hall.

Joby Shinoff, who lost his struggle with cancer last November, was a leading advocate for the off-leash run at Upper Noe. He started a group called Day Park Dogs about nine years ago, and spent countless hours meeting with park users and dog owners to carve out an area for dogs that would be separate from the athletic field. The first "trial" dog run was established in 2000. Shinoff also worked with Rec and Park to include a permanent dog run in the renovation plans. Unfortunately, he died before the new dog run was constructed. About 500 neighbors have signed a petition asking that the dog run

be named for Shinoff. As to when the park renovation will be completed, we're having a hard time sniffing that out. The latest word from insiders is August.

☎ ☎ ☎

LILY OF THE VALLEY: A bouquet goes out to the Friends of Noe Valley and to those of you who participated in the May 10 Noe Valley Garden Tour. Friends sold 265 tickets (at \$12 each) and sponsors donated another \$900. According to FNV president Richard May, after expenses of under a thousand dollars, the event raised just over \$3,000. The money will go toward "neighborhood beautification."

May wants to thank the Noe Valley residents who opened their lovely gardens for the event, as well as Friends board members Cynthia Hogan, Andrew Keeler, Beth Daecher, Scott Maddux, and Mindy Kershner.

☎ ☎ ☎

IN OTHER NOE NEWS: It looks like the space on Church Street recently vacated by the Pickled Hutch antique store will become MoBu, a dance studio owned and operated by Takami Craddock. You might recall that Craddock taught dance at the Noe Valley Ministry, then opened a studio temporarily on the corner of 23rd and Sanchez. She also has a studio in the Sunset District. Look for the Church Street studio to be renovated and open this fall.

Condolences go out to the family of Alvin Edlin, who died last month at age 96. His nickname in Downtown Noe Valley was "Bud," and not coincidentally he owned and operated Bud's Ice Cream on the corner of 24th and Castro from 1952 to 1980. The shop space was ultra-small, but Bud made all of his famous flavors in the creamery in the back of the store.

Bud sold out to a group of investors in 1980, and later was bought out by Berkeley Farms. You can still find Bud's Ice

Cream in supermarket freezers, but it just ain't the same.

☎ ☎ ☎

NOE VOTES tabulated by the Department of Elections in the June 3 primary election show that 47 percent of Noe Valleyans who are registered to vote cast ballots (citywide, the turnout was 40 percent).

The hotly contested battle for a state senate seat among Mark Leno, Carole Migdon, and Joe Nation, was won by Leno with 2,768 votes. Migdon got 1,091 votes, and Nation came in third with 480.

The political season will resume on or before Labor Day. The week after, the *Voice* will start distributing its September issue. Now it's vacation time, and I look forward to taking friends for a stroll up Liberty Hill. See you there!

☎ ☎ ☎

BEFORE I SAY GOODBYE for summer vacation, I'd like to extend my condolences to the family and friends of Twin Peaks Properties owner Harry Aleo, whom we lost to cancer on June 21. (*See front-page story, this issue.*) Harry always referred to the *Noe Valley Voice* as "that radical rag," but he was a great source of news for Rumors over the years. *Lost in the Fog*, a documentary by John Corey about Aleo and his winning racehorse Lost in the Fog, had its world premiere the evening of June 10 at the Kabuki Theater. Aleo got out of the hospital that day, but was unable to attend the event. Said a sad Corey to the large theater audience, "I wish Harry were here tonight." He told the crowd, however, that Harry had delighted at seeing a special screening of the movie before he went into the hospital. Hopefully, Corey will organize a benefit screening in Noe Valley, but if that doesn't happen, check out the movie when it's released on DVD.

That's 30. ■

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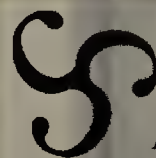
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Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230
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 Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
 Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100
 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Church Street Professionals

Contacts: Lynn Ingham, 643-5966,
 or Paula Benton, 248-0235
 E-mail: bentonp@sprynet.com
 Meetings: Third Monday, every other
 month. Location varies.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
 San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30
 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

E-mail: dhic123@gmail.com
 Website: www.doloresheights.org
 Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; mem-
 bership semi-annually.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360;
 Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or
 Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
 Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
 Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Irregular, call to confirm.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137,
 San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Third Thursday of the month
 (except December), Eureka Valley Recrea-
 tion Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362
 Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San
 Francisco, CA 94110
 Note: The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is
 held the day before Mother's Day.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association

Contact: Gregg Brooks
 E-mail: sflyric@yahoo.com
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San
 Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: E-mail for details.

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

Contact: Eli Merritt, 285-3774
 E-mail: emerr@earthlink.net
 Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San
 Francisco, CA 94110
 Meetings: E-mail for information.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
 Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San
 Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
 E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com
 Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley,
 P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
 Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Richard May
 E-mail: rambooks@pachell.net
 Website: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San
 Francisco, CA 94146
 Meetings: First or second Thursday of the
 month (call or e-mail to confirm), at
 St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
 Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San
 Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park

Contact: Alexandra Torre
 E-mail: noe_park@atorre.com
 Website: www.noevalleyreccenter.com
 Meetings: E-mail or check website.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114,
 San Francisco, CA 94119
 Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Screenwriting Discussion Group

Contact: Kendall Callas, 821-1310
 E-mail: kendall@microcounsel.com
 Meetings: Monthly; e-mail for details.
 Pre-requisite: Completed a screenplay or a
 screenwriting course.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

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Noe Valley Association-24th Street Community Benefit District

Contact: Debra Niemann, nemo@rcn.com
 Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage
 on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838
 Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month;
 St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30
 p.m. Parking available in lot off Elizabeth.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, on 24th between
 Sanchez and Vicksburg Street
 Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332
 Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San
 Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
 Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021
 Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695,
kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-
 Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
 Mailing Address: Friends of the
 San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94102

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contacts: Donna Davis, 647-2116, or Gwen
 Sanderson, 550-7577
 E-mail: info@noevalleymerchants.com;
 register at www.noevalleymerchants.com.
 Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month.
 E-mail for location and time.

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents
 Contact: Mina Kenvin
 E-mail: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee

Contact: Maxine Fasulis, 641-5536
 E-mail: mfasulis@yahoo.com
 Meetings: Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
 Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San
 Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
 E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
 Website: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
 Meetings: See website.

See Jane Run Running Programs

Contacts: Shauna Nyborg, 415-401-8338;
 Deb DeFanti, 415-839-9393
 E-mail: events@seejanerun.com
 Address: 3910 24th Street (at Sanchez)
 Website: <http://www.seejanerun.com/t-Training.aspx>

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and
 Fair Oaks to Mission
 Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
 E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
 Website: www.tail-wagging.com
 Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
 Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San
 Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call
 to confirm), 30th Street Senior Center, 225
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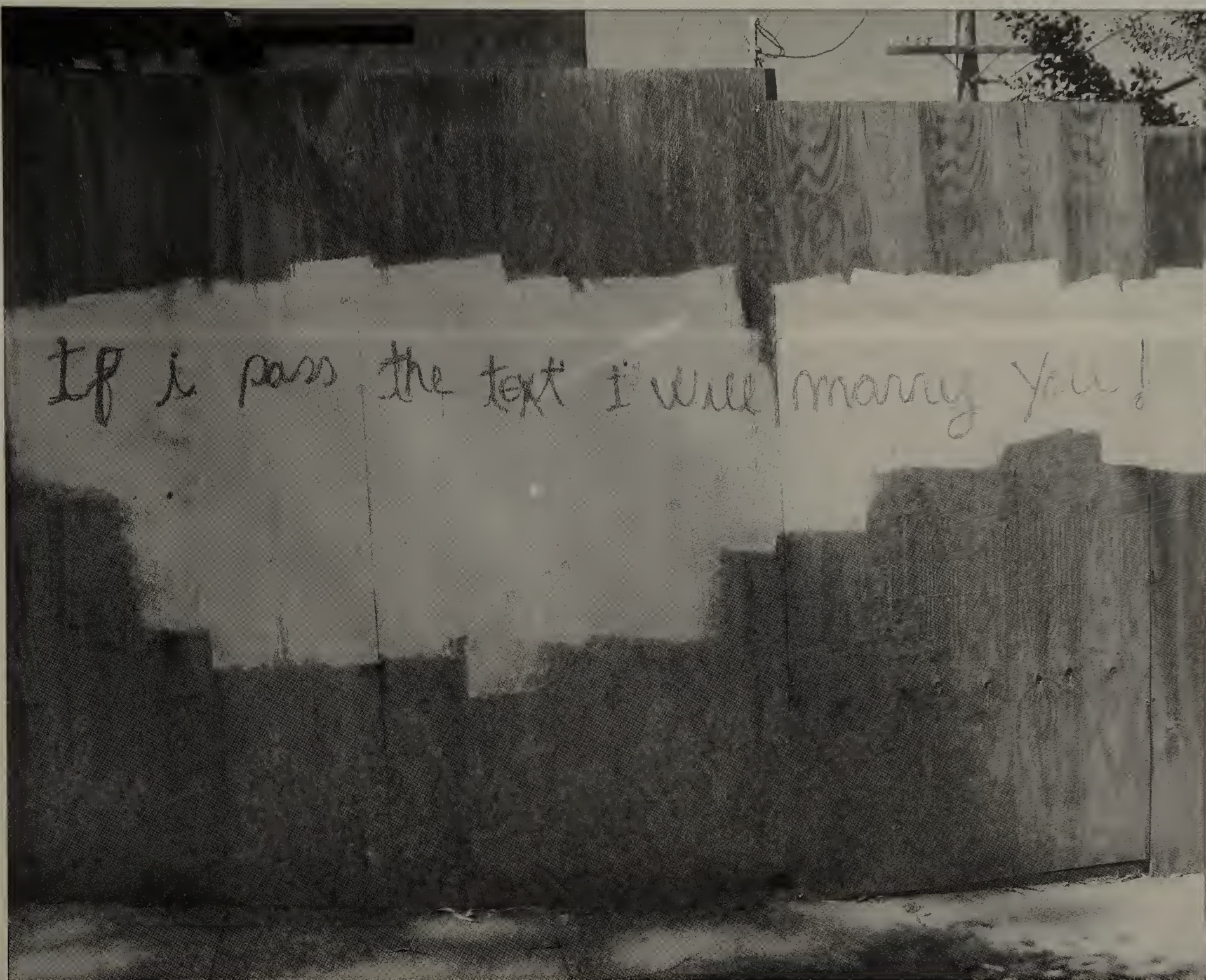
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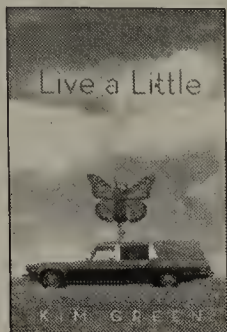
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Live a Little

an excerpt from the novel

by Kim Green



Author Kim Green

Somehow, I manage to stagger out of the doctor's office without collapsing on or molesting anyone. I slide into the car and burn myself on the sun-baked seatbelt buckle. Something perverse makes me press my hand hard against it, conjuring a sizzle. Chemo terrifies me. I wonder if it will hurt ten times as much as the burn. A hundred times as much? Five hundred?

The minivan skews to a stop in front of our mailbox. I don't realize I've left my purse and keys in the car until I'm at the front door.

I ring my own doorbell.

Taylor swings the door open. "Yeah?" Her cell is rammed in her ear. She's wearing a triangle bikini top, and her boobs are insanely perky. It is hard to believe we emanate from the same gene pool.

"Did you look in the peephole? What if I was a rapist?" I am nearly shouting.

"Then I'd kick you in the nuts and shut the door."

I push past her, pausing in the guest bath to gulp water directly from the faucet. My throat hurts. Suddenly, everything wrong in the universe seems like a symptom instead of just garden-variety Jewish hypochondria.

Taylor blocks my way to the bedroom and holds up a scrap of cloth. "Mom, can you go to Urban Outfitters tomorrow and get me some more of these tanks? Not the girls' ones, they're in the guys' section. Get me blue, green, and black. And orange! But not the gross traffic-cone one, the cool one."

Too wasted to counter the assault with an inspired lecture on the perils of not appreciating your parents properly in case they die prematurely, I ball the shirt in my hand and fall into the pile of murky bed sheets. I close my eyes and pray in what I imagine is a semi-authentic manner. I whisper "amen" and "hallelujah" several dozen times before giving up on sleep and scouring the bathroom cabinet for drugs.

The toilet seat stands at attention, the rim festooned with dabs of pee and hair. For some reason, this derail, this mundane particle of injustice, sends me over the edge.

"Dammit!"

I slam the seat down, my hand protected by Taylor's shirt. A puny scream erupts from the now-cracked seat joint, which, like my mind, has never been completely stable.

Afternoon blurs into evening while I toss and turn, willing the catastrophe on a better-equipped individual. Once every 2.5 seconds, I actually forget I have it. My thoughts are weird. For example: *What's better for the kids: preserving my posthumous reputation by delivering the news with grace and decorum, or maintaining a consistent familial environment by crying and cussing?*

At one point, I smell my son and open

my eyes. Micah is leaning over me, in the process of stealing my cherished heating pad from the opposite nightstand.

"Why are you wearing cleats in the house?" I croak.

Micah kicks a clod of soggy turf off his soccer shoe.

"See ya later, Mom. I'm taking the car." He waggles a set of keys.

My keys.

I roll out of bed, stomp across the house, and lock myself in the off-garage toilet, shaking, until I hear the garage door open and my husband's evening sacraments begin. In preparation for what lies ahead, I try to do the sort of deep breathing they teach you at yoga, in which you're supposed to cram healing breaths into every possible orifice of your body until you are at peace.

"How can you have cancer? You haven't even been to the doctor." Phil's green eyes, which I'd once found feline and mysterious, now exude a grim haze as predictable as the sky over L.A.

Finally, I go in search of my forever-in-wasted-motion partner in life.

Phil goes utterly still when I corner him in the living room and deliver the news. Then, true to form, he goes on the attack.

"What are you talking about?" he says irritably. His fingers twitch. I can tell he wants to flick the volume button and return to his life's work: wallowing in flat-screen, high-definition television.

With what I believe any reasonably dignified person would call great dignity, I walk calmly toward the father of my children, plant myself in the path of the TV, and obstruct his view of Barry Bonds, my arms crossed just like Barry's (except that his are big, black, and muscular, and mine are big, white, and flabby). Then I leap on Phil and wrestle the remote clumsily from his hands. I brandish this electronic sliver of power triumphantly as I crawl toward the couch.

This part I accomplish sans dignity.

"What the hell are you doing?" Phil says. We are both panting.

"I have cancer," I say, experimenting with the pronunciation a bit. This time, I emphasize the "I."

"How can you have cancer? You haven't even been to the doctor." Phil's green eyes, which I'd once found feline and mysterious, now exude a grim haze as predictable as the sky over L.A. They flicker back to the screen: Giants, 11; Dodgers, 3.

"We need to make the necessary arrangements."

I finally have my husband's attention. "What arrangements? Raquel? What are you saying?"

"I'm saying I have cancer of the breast. The doctor says it's stage four, maybe inoperable. Twelve lymph nodes, Philly!

Twelve!" Through the window, I watch as Ronnie Greenblatt strips off his soccer jersey and pulls the lawn mower out of the shed. At seventeen and nine months, my son's best friend has the kind of cobbled abs that could make a nun weep.

"I thought breast cancer was hereditary. Your mom doesn't have it. Lauren doesn't have it."

"Well, apparently I have it." I bank the factoid that only 5 percent of breast cancers are inherited for future use.

"Do you have..."—a maroon flush of shame saturates Phil's cheeks—"...a lump?"

"Of course I have a lump. That's why I went for a mammogram and then the biopsy." I envision myself through my husband's eyes at this moment: the picture of pale, goddess-like piety and patience in the face of doom. Lumpy doom.

"Good God." I can tell Phil thinks he should have found it himself. My husband is nothing if not dutiful. If someone had slipped it into our marriage contract—*Responsibility number three: Perform breast lump exam on [blank's] breasts bimonthly*—he would have kneaded me like bread dough every other Wednesday without fail. Also, he was probably wondering, as was I, when the last time he actually touched my breasts was. Strangely, it was one of the first thoughts that curdled in my head after my visit with Dr. Meissner: *Did Phil touch it?*

Telling the kids is worse. "Oh my God, Mommy!" Taylor screeches, lunging into my arms in a manner she had abandoned at eight.

"It's okay, honey. I know it's hard. I know," I say, rubbing her back, which is bare where her baby tee cowers above her low-slung jeans.

"But, Mom, aren't they even going to try chemo?" Micah, whom I'd considered the smart one until he smoked the joint with Ronnie and plowed the Accord into the side of the Circle K last spring, defaults to calm interrogation. He takes after Phil that way.

"The doctor says we'll do chemo, radiation, even stem cell replacement if we have to. After the surgery to remove as much of the cancer as they can, of course." That's something I hadn't understood at the time and had been too addled to ask: How can inoperable cancer be operated on?

"What about Tamoxifen? Ronnie's grandma had breast cancer and she did chemo and took Tamoxifen for five years and now she's fine." My son's denim-blue eyes are wide and panicked.

"I can't believe you remember that," I say, impressed.

The blue eyes snap. "Don't treat me like an idiot!"

"Mike, calm down." But I don't really want my boy to calm down. In fact, I don't want anyone to calm down, anywhere, ever again. My family, least of all; as far as I'm concerned, they should start building

the shrine now. I can already imagine it: my best photos (all taken in the early 1980s and slightly pixilated), my favorite scented candles from Tocca, sympathy cards, a lock of hair, smooth stones to facilitate my journey to the other side—all of it with the faint whiff of idolatry and Catholicism about it. With a dash of Eastern mysticism thrown in, of course. This is *de rigueur* among the coolest dead young mothers.

"How am I supposed to calm down?" Micah yells. My son goes from zero to sixty in a heartbeat. He takes after me, that way.

Taylor lifts her tear-stained face from my soon-to-be ravaged bosom. "Shut up! Mom's dying and you're making it worse! You're such an asshole!"

"Kids! Let's give it a rest, okay. I'm really tired," I lie. Actually, the conversation has left me weirdly energized. The kids are being so damn attentive, so nice.

"Mom, I love you! You can't die!" Taylor snuggles against me, apparently now her preferred parenting resource. The runner-up slumps against the couch, his head in his hands.

Micah pushes Taylor aside and folds his five feet eleven inches into the crook of my arm. I am fairly sure that the last time my offspring hugged me willingly was 2001, when our first family dog, Pickle, was laid to rest in a patch of rosemary. Nearly purring, I inhale my children's gamey teen scent, stroke their silky skin, lap up their delicious need. It is pure bliss.

And that's when it comes to me: Maybe, now that I am dying, it is time to live a little.

Want to Read More? You won't have to wait long. Kim Green's novel *Live a Little* will be released by 5 Spot/Grand Central Publishing in mid-August. It is the Noe Valley author's third book of comic fiction about the messy business of love. "I always seem to find the humor in otherwise dire circumstances," she laughs.

Her first two novels—*Is That a Moose in Your Pocket?* (Delta, 2003) and *Paging Aphrodite* (Delta, 2004)—earned Green enthusiastic praise from readers. From reviewer J. Marchese came this plum: "This is chick lit doing what chick lit does best: entertaining, uplifting, commiserating, and titillating, all with a dash of fantasy to allow the readers some escape."

Green finds both fantasy and reality in her home on Day Street, which she shares with her husband, Gabe, and their two children, Lulu, 4½, and Zev, 16 months.

Her goal in *Live a Little*, she says, was to write "from the perspective of a mom with much older kids, who has neglected herself too long while catering to others."

These days, in addition to scrambling after toddlers and doing freelance work as a marketing copywriter, Green is busy penning her next novel, to be called *The Naughty Girls Book Club*. It's about a culture war over banned books in a small Bible-belt town in Tennessee.

She's also working on "a massive to-do list," she jokes, that includes: "Find daughter kindergarten" and "Get Democrat elected president."

To follow her literary, political, and other endeavors, go to www.kimgreen.com, kim-green.blogspot.com, or welcometothe5spot.blogspot.com.

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